

# Newfie News



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## Emma: Loved *and* Forgotten

*Rescues come from all sorts of situations and sources. Newf Mom and WMUR news reporter Amy Covenor shares her rescue story about dogs, dementia and a good neighbor.*

Emma is stunning. A one hundred thirty pound black beauty born with champion bloodlines in Vermont. She cost someone a lot of money. She came to me for free- out of a tough situation in the North Country of New Hampshire.

It was the most rash decision I'd ever made in my 48 years on the planet. It started with Facebook.

As a local television journalist I have a presence on social media, a bit of a following, I suppose. And after my children banned me from posting photos and anecdotes about their lives, I turned to my other children, the ones who couldn't balk at the photos and intrusions into their lives...my Newfs. We had two at the time, Bella and Lola, born two years apart.



Emma in New Hampshire

The woman who posted about Emma is a self-appointed dog guardian angel. She lives with 11 dogs herself. She used to be a model in LA, but 11 years ago packed up a dozen dogs and trekked to where she could afford the land to raise THAT many at one time – northern New Hampshire. Ella is a matchmaker, marketer, and liaison to dogs in need. It's her life's work. It pays nothing. She takes no money and at times, as you will see, the work is thankless and heartbreaking.

One day in March 2017, Ella's elderly neighbor called her with a question. Could she come over and help find the dogs because they had escaped from the leash? Ella searched and finally, around 9 that night, she heard whimpering. Two dogs were tied to a post near a barn at the end of the trailer park. Tangled together, they couldn't move. Her neighbor had tied them there and forgotten he'd done it.

The Shepherd's name was Daisy. She was arthritic, sweet, deaf and going blind. Daisy was the man's dog...Emma, a Newf, had just joined recently; the man's son gave her to him after she became too much dog in a small home with little kids.

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## Who's at TNP?



**Lucus** arrived at TNP on November 18 from a shelter situation. This 4 year old male needs neutering and eye surgery. He will spend some time at TNP healing before heading to his forever home. Lucus is energetic and a good dog - playful and happy.

**Three French Bulldogs**, one at TNP and two in a foster home, are still under TNP care. Two of the three have an upcoming follow up appointment with the eye specialist. They are on multiple eye drops daily but are doing well overall.



Stripe is at TNP

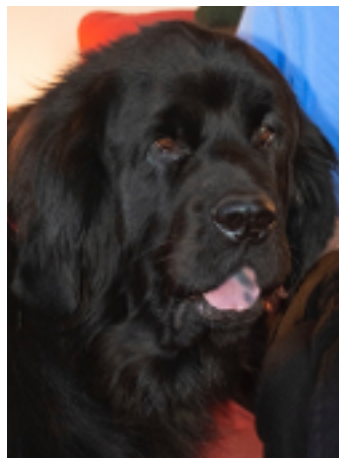
## Recently Adopted

Maisie (formerly Azi) went to her new home with Ellie Perzel on Nov 12. Ellie made the more than 13 hour trip from West Jefferson, North Carolina on November 11, picked up Maisie in the morning and drove back to North Carolina. Maisie, 4, is doing very well in her new home.

"She has not missed a beat," Ellie said. "She's a wonderful dog. She behaves well and is a great house dog. She puts me to bed at night and wakes me in the morning."

Maisie is Ellie's 4th Newfoundland, and 3rd from TNP. She lost her last Newf, Beau, in March and her husband passed away in June.

Maisie is a good companion and means the world to Ellie. "I loved her from the first minute and I still do," she said.



## Expert Excerpts

*With Dr. Lauren Flanagan of  
Pepperell (MA) Veterinary Hospital*

Just as is the case in people, obesity is associated with many underlying health concerns and can worsen other existing conditions. Obesity puts excess workload on the heart and lungs which contributes to the development of cardiopulmonary disease and hypertension. The added weight contributes to development of osteoarthritis and also increases clinical signs of osteoarthritis by the added stress on the joints. Obesity has been linked to certain kidney diseases, pancreatitis, neoplasia, cruciate ligament rupture, and a shortened lifespan. All good reasons to keep your Newf lean.

So maybe your dog needs to lose weight. It's not an easy task and expect it will take some time. We strive for weight loss of 1-2% of body weight per week.

Feeding and exercise habits will need to be modified. Be sure to keep a food diary and include ALL snacks and treats.

These often account for an unexpectedly large number of calories and most people tend to be lax in keeping track of all the little snacks. Keep the diary for several days and determine from the diary the number of calories your dog typically eats in a day, then reduce the total calories by 25%. Increase your daily walks, add in some short jogs, add in hills. These are general guidelines and may not work for every dog but it's a place to start. Talk to your veterinarian, they will certainly be helpful and supportive and give you some ideas and resources, and most importantly, a walk-on scale to keep track of your dog's progress.

## TNP Alumni

It was love at first sight when Heidi Maloni saw the post on TNP's website about Maya arriving at TNP on May 20. She secretly stalked her, knowing that the family that would adopt Maya would be blessed. Less than a week later, on Memorial Day, it was Heidi who was blessed as she and her family welcomed Maya into their Agawam, MA home.

Maya Grace, as she is called in her new home, turned 3 in August. Heidi says she is "living proof of the 3 day, 3 weeks, 3 months rule for dogs." The first few days, Maya

Grace was on Heidi's lap. She was teaching remotely at the time, and all her students knew she had a dog! At 3 weeks, Maya Grace was a little more relaxed, going on walks with Heidi's sister, Kelly Maloni, and spending time with Heidi's 24-year-old daughter Mary Malloy, who was home due to COVID lockdown. Heidi knew Maya Grace was "home" when she walked into her kitchen a few months after adopting her and found her in full "Newfie pose" – on her back with her paws in the air. "She was fully relaxed," Heidi said.



Kelly has become Maya Grace's favorite human, as she is home with her all day, cooks her breakfast and dinner, and takes her on 2 walks a day. But she's still adores the rest of her family. "She loves her people," Heidi said. She goes from room to room and needs to be touching someone all the time. She walks around all day with her tail wagging."

Maya Grace also loves to go for walks, run around the baseball field in town, play fetch with tennis balls, greet the Huskies next door through the fence and visit with other dogs on her walk.

Maya Grace is Heidi's 3rd Newfoundland and second from TNP. Her first was Shadow, an honorable, stoic, poised and well-behaved girl that her then husband brought home as a surprise from a pet shop. They had been talking about getting a Newf but Heidi was still in the process of researching the breed (including reaching out to Cathy and TNP for info) and had just gotten on a breeder's waiting list when Shadow came home in 2001.

Shadow was soon diagnosed with hip dysplasia and had back issues, so Heidi kept in close contact with Cathy for advice and information. When Shadow passed away in 2012, Heidi turned to TNP for her next Newf, Paisley, who was about 3 and had SAS. With a canine cardiologist in her hometown, Heidi made sure that Paisley's condition was monitored until she passed away in April 2020. Heidi described Paisley as "a goofball, constantly upside down, running around and making noises."

### 3 days, 3 weeks, 3 months rule for dogs

The first **3 days** are the initial transition. Everything is new, exciting, and stimulating.

After **3 weeks**, the dog is getting used to everyone in the house, has learned the daily routine, and feels more secure about where the next meal is coming from. More of the dog's personality starts to show.

By **3 months**, the dog is "home" and comfortable with her family and surroundings.

*Emma continued from page 1*

Ella began checking on her neighbor regularly. In the North Country looking out for each other is a way of life. Resources are slim, internet service is spotty, weather is severe and folks rely on each other to get by. Ella had growing concerns over her neighbor but did not want to overstep. He had adult children in the area, surely they were aware of his failing health and dilapidated living conditions.

Soon, Ella decided it was time to take action. She reached out to Social Services to line up care, maybe a health assessment, and perhaps even find a new home for her neighbor, closer into town where groceries and doctors were easier to access. A visiting nurse came. The condition of the trailer was startling and it was quickly apparent that this man's mental acuity was failing. An apartment was available in town. Great news! But the dogs couldn't come. Ella began to do what Ella does. She worked her network, made some videos, and posted the plight of Emma and Daisy. We connected. "I'll take both," I said.

Now, the most delicate part of the operation was to unfold. The family was on board, so was Social Services, even the local police. They all knew that this man needed to move, he needed support and the dogs needed new homes. But he adored his dogs.

So, Ella fibbed. She told him she was taking the dogs for a bath. Instead, she piled them into her Jeep and drove to Littleton, New Hampshire. I had finished my morning shift at the station. My young animal loving producer insisted she come along, not wanting me to be alone should anything go awry. We pulled into the fast-food parking lot and saw Ella...well, we really saw EMMA, she's hard to miss. I got out of my car and called out to Ella. As she turned,



Emma broke from her and like a love scene from a movie, Emma ran to me as if she'd known me all her life. She ran across the grass into my arms, both front paws landed on my shoulders and she looked into my eyes. Emma was home. And so was Daisy. Sweet, unassuming Daisy fit in to the gaggle of three Newfoundlands without a second thought. I often wondered what she thought about it all. Did she think she was a Newf?

Life turned around for Ella's neighbor. Guardianship was granted to his daughter-in-law through the court, he moved into a new apartment, meals on wheels came every day and Elderly Protective Services stopped in three times a week. Only one thing was missing. His dogs. He came to the store where Ella worked over and over again to ask where his dogs were. He was mad. Then he was sad. He asked every day where his dogs were. He thought they'd been killed. People around him tried to assure him...the dogs are safe and loved and in a good home. He couldn't accept it or remember it. He just kept asking. Dementia is cruel.



Emma, Daisy, Lola & Bella

Seven months after the rescue intervention I got word that Ella's neighbor passed away. I looked up his obituary and cried when I read the messages friends wrote underneath. Wishing him peace and hoping that he is finally reunited with his beloved dogs.

How I wish I could have showed him how much I adore Emma and Daisy. I would have liked to thank him and to say sorry for the circumstances. And let him know they are all safe now.

# Keep Your Dog (and Cat) Safe from Toxic Holiday Plants

During the holidays, plants play a prominent role in festive decorations. It's important to know toxicity levels to keep your pets safe. Information is from [PetMD.com](https://www.petmd.com/dog/seasonal/evr_multi_dangerous_winter_holiday_plants) ([https://www.petmd.com/dog/seasonal/evr\\_multi\\_dangerous\\_winter\\_holiday\\_plants](https://www.petmd.com/dog/seasonal/evr_multi_dangerous_winter_holiday_plants))

Many people believe that **Poinsettias** are deadly to pets, but this is actually quite unlikely.

The poinsettia plant's brightly colored leaves contain a sap that is irritating to the tissues of the mouth and esophagus. If the leaves are ingested, they will often cause nausea and vomiting, but it would take a large amount of the plant's material to cause poisoning, and most animals won't eat such a large enough amount due to the irritating taste and feel from the sap. But, It still may be best to keep poinsettias out of reach of pets.

If the plant has been treated with a pesticide, however, your pet could be at risk of becoming ill from ingesting the pesticide. The size of your pet and the amount of ingested plant material will be the determining factors for the severity of the poisoning. Severe reactions include seizures, coma, and in some cases, death.

**Holly and Mistletoe**, and their berries, have a greater toxicity level than the poinsettia.

Symptoms of illness from ingesting these plants include intestinal upset, such as vomiting and diarrhea, excessive drooling and abdominal pain. If a large enough amount of these plants are ingested, seizures and death may follow.

Mistletoe is well-known for causing severe intestinal upset as well as a sudden and severe drop in blood pressure, breathing problems and even sometimes hallucinations.

The leaves and berries of holly and mistletoe plants, even the dried plants, should be kept well out of your pet's reach, or better yet, kept out of the home altogether.

The beauty of the flowering **Amaryllis (Belladonna)** is only matched by its toxicity. The Amaryllis contains noxious substances, which cause salivation, vomiting, diarrhea, decreased appetite and abdominal pain, lethargy and tremors in both cats and dogs.

The bulb of the plant is reputed to be even more dangerous than the flowers and stalk. It may be best to keep this plant out of a home with animals.

The **Christmas Cactus** is not toxic to dogs or cats in either its parts or flowers. However, fibrous plant material can cause irritation to the stomach and intestine, leading to vomiting or diarrhea. Curious cats and dogs may be injured by the spines, so these plants should still be kept out of pets' reach.

The oils produced by **Christmas Trees** (fir trees) can be irritating to a pet's mouth and stomach, causing excessive vomiting or drooling. Tree needles may cause gastrointestinal irritation, obstruction and punctures.

Additionally, the water used to nourish Christmas trees can contain bacteria, molds and fertilizers that can cause your pet to become extremely sick with only a few laps of water. Keep the water covered and blocked off to prevent pets from accessing it.

**Play It safe.** If you do choose to bring any of these holiday plants into your home, be very careful about where you place them. If your pet does manage to ingest any part of the plants, call your veterinarian immediately to find out what you should do to minimize the damage.

"TNP Alumni" Continued from page 3

Maya Grace has her own personality. "She's the sweetest little princess who wants to be loved and be with you," Heidi said. "She has brought laughter to our house. Maya Grace is the center of our lives. She has three women who are absolutely head over heels for her. She is living the dream." And Heidi and her family are as well.



### It's a Win-Win with AmazonSmiles

Shop for Christmas gifts from the safety and convenience of your own home AND help TNP at the same time.

When you sign up for and shop at AmazonSmile and name That Newfoundland Place as your charity, a percentage of your purchases goes to TNP. That's all you need to do! Your gifts arrive at your door and TNP receives funds for the care of the dogs.

Simply click on the AmazonSmiles link below and start shopping. Thank you!

## Upcoming Events

### GIVING TUESDAY

#### Giving Tuesday Fundraiser

December 1st is Giving Tuesday and That Newfoundland Place is participating in the global virtual fundraising event. Be sure to check the TNP Facebook page for details. With the cancellation of TNP's Annual Reunion and Fundraiser due to COVID-19, your gift is more important than ever.

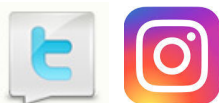
The work at TNP continues with rescues as well as an outpouring of requests for food, from all over. Your gift goes directly to care for the dogs and provide assistance to those experiencing hardship at this time.

Giving Tuesday was created in 2012 and is a global generosity and charitable day of giving to create community and kindness during holiday commercialism.

If you miss Giving Tuesday, you can still donate! Click on the PayPal link below to make a donation or visit the website (<https://thatnewfoundlandplace.org/>)

**Thank you!**  
**Your generosity is appreciated.**

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