

Newfie News



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Exercise and Hot Weather

Late spring can be finicky when it comes to weather. Some days the coolness of spring seems to hang on and other times it seems like an early summer with hot days and sunshine.

While humans often bask in the warmth of late spring and early summer days, Newfoundlands are already feeling the heat. When it starts climbing into the 70s and above, your Newf is at higher risk of heat stroke.

We know dogs need exercise every day, but what do you do on days when the thermometer inches toward the century mark? Walking in the early morning or evening can help to avoid the heat of the day, and a shady trail may provide some relief from the sun.

But sometimes your dog needs some exercise in the middle of the day, not just physically but mentally. There are some activities you can do that provide a break from the heat.

Play in the water

Newfs were bred for the water and while not all of them are expert swimmers, the vast majority enjoy the water, even if it means wading or just standing in it. If you live near the ocean, a lake, or stream, a dip in the water can cool your Newf off and provide some exercise.

If you don't have a natural water source nearby, a kiddie pool can have a similar effect. Many dogs enjoy walking around in the pool, especially if you join them. A hose or sprinkler can also be fun while keeping your Newf cool.



Photo from iStock by
Getty Images

Walk in an air-conditioned pet friendly store

A change of scenery is always fun for an active dog with new sounds and smells to keep them busy. Many stores are pet friendly (check online before you go) including most national pet chains, Home Depot and Lowes, Tractor Supply Co., and more. A large store will provide exercise walking up and down the aisles. Bonus: If you drive to the store, most Newfs will enjoy the air-conditioned ride.

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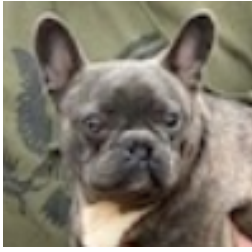
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Who's at TNP?



French Bulldog **Stripe** has been neutered and has an upcoming appointment with an eye specialist. Stripe remains at TNP and they will not be looking for a home for him at this time.

Dogs in Foster Care

TNP has one male Newf, named Moose, in foster care who was recently neutered and headed to his new home at the end of May.

A 7-year-old female Newf has been spayed and TNP will be looking for her new home once she is healed.

Assistance with medical care and food for dogs - and cats - has been ongoing. If you need assistance contact TNP at cathy@thatnewfoundlandplace.org

Upcoming Events

The TNP Team has discussed the idea of an Open House later this summer and has decided to hold off on events until 2022 in the interest of keeping everyone safe. The team continues to send out applications for adoption upon request and conduct virtual home checks. TNP will, as they have during the last year, meet privately with families for whom they feel they have a suitable dog.

TNP is Looking for Volunteers

Do you have experience with grants? TNP needs your help. They would like to apply for grants to help fund the many spays, neuters, and other medical procedures they assist with for owners, as well as medical expenses for dogs they place. If you have experience writing grants and know how the system works contact Cathy Derench at: cathy@thatnewfoundlandplace.org

Famous Newfoundlands: Heroic Dog on the Titanic

The *RMS Titanic* is one of the most famous ships in history with its fateful maiden voyage from England to New York cut short when the ship sank after hitting an iceberg on April 14, 1912. At its helm was the experienced first officer, William McMaster Murdoch, of Scotland. Murdoch brought a companion on board with him: a large, black Newfoundland dog, named Rigel, whom he had also had with him when he was serving on the *Titanic's* sister ship, the *RMS Olympic*.

During the voyage, each day, a crew member would take the dogs for a stroll around the promenade deck. These canine parades became quite an event and people would schedule their times on deck so that they could see the dogs. Everyone seemed to be enjoying the dogs so much that an informal dog show was scheduled by the first class passengers to be held on Monday, April 15th. Unfortunately, that show would never take place.

We know quite a bit about the fate of the 1,522 people that were lost that night of April 14, and even more about the 714 people that survived. In the chaos of those events, it is not surprising that the accounts of what happened to the dogs are less clear. Some of the reports are confused or incomplete, but the following information appears in a variety of respected accounts of that fateful night.

At the time of the collision with the iceberg, Rigel was safely housed in the *Titanic's* modern kennel facilities since Murdoch needed to focus on the goal of this voyage—to reach New York in record time.

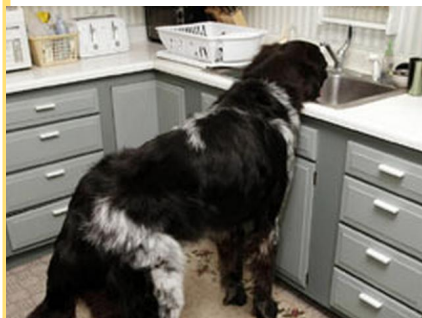
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Newfun Facts

It's a fact that Newfoundlands are big. As the 5th largest dog breed in the world, they've earned adjective such as huge, enormous, and gigantic. It's safe to wager that every Newfoundland owner has heard their bundle of fur referred to as a bear or horse by a curious bystander. Standing at 25-30 inches tall and weighing on average 100-150 pounds, Newfs usually tower over other pooches at the dog park.

Newfoundlands can outweigh their adult human family members and larger Newfs top the scales at 200 pounds or more. But the largest Newfoundland recorded weighed in at 260 pounds and measured over 6 feet from its nose to the tip of its tail. That's larger than an average adult man.

Boomer, a Landseer from Casselton, ND holds the record for the longest Newfoundland, standing at 36 inches tall at the top of the shoulders, weighing 180 pounds and measuring about 7 feet long from the tip of his nose to the end of his tail cartilage. Boomer was tall enough to drink water directly from the kitchen sink with all four paws on the floor. In fact, Boomer became the Guinness world record holder for tallest dog in October 2009. The current record holder is Great Dane Freddy of Essex, England, who measures 40.75 inches tall.



Guinness world record holder Boomer

Photo copyright Dave Wallis / The Forum

Sources: <https://puppytoob.com/20-things-you-didnt-know-about-the-newfoundland-dog/>
<https://www.parkrapidsenterprise.com/488247-casselton-nd-newfoundland-running-tallest-dog-record>

TNP Alumni

Catherine L'Heureux has had Newfoundlands for over two decades and each dog has enriched her and her family's life in unique ways. "Newfoundlands are just amazing dogs," Catherine said. "They are easy to rescue and to love."

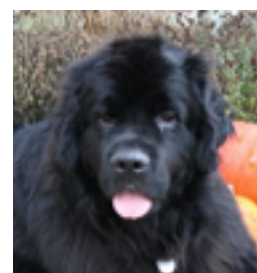
The love affair began when Catherine was a child. A friend had a Newfoundland and they played with the dog many hours. As an adult, male Shadow was her first Newf, adopted as a puppy from



Birchbark Kennels in South Addison, ME in the late 1990s. Shadow was a healthy and happy Newf, living nearly 15 years.

Shadow (l) & Wriggley

Around 2006 Catherine was looking for another Newf and decided to research rescues. An internet search led her to the Newfoundland Club of New England and Cathy Derench. Catherine and her family attended an open house to learn more. They met Wriggley, who turned the tables and adopted them.



Wriggley was a 2 year old female who had been devocalized, which caused her to have difficulty panting.

Wriggley

She was very shy and cautious around people. At the open house, Wriggley followed Catherine's then 5-year-old daughter Emily everywhere. "They had a magical bond from the get go," Catherine said. It wasn't long before Wriggley joined the family in their Kennebunk, ME home. "What an amazing dog she was,"

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Exercise and Hot Weather continued from page 1

Have a game of hide and seek or other game

Stashing some treats or toys around the room or house can provide mental exercise for your Newf. It will also get their muscles moving a bit. Just be sure to have the air-conditioner or fans on so they can keep cool. Crank the game up a notch by hiding treats under empty boxes, egg containers, or paper bags. In a large space, tug of war or a shorter version of catch will stimulate a dog's mind and provide some bonding and fun for both of you.

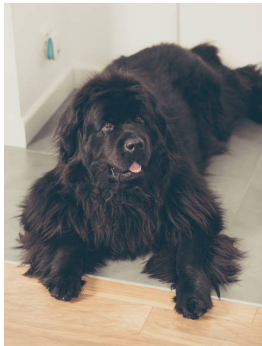


Photo from iStock by Getty Images

Work on training

Training can take a lot of time and being inside can provide an opportunity to work on behaviors you'd like to reinforce. Coming when called and staying work just as well indoors as out. Providing distractions like food or toys will increase the difficulty level. Whatever the training, practicing indoors will benefit the dog.

Puzzle toys

Stuff a Kong or other hollow toy with a treat and freeze it. This provides not only a cool snack but will keep your Newf occupied for a while.

Doggie Daycare or a playdate

Drop your dog off at an air-conditioned doggie daycare for a couple of hours to play with the other dogs or arrange a playdate with a dog friend who has a large, cool space available. Bonus if they have a dog friendly pool or other area with water!

Finally, realize that less activity in the heat is not a bad thing. We all are advised to take it a little easier with exercise on hot days. Your Newf may need the extra "calm" time to stay cool.

Source: <https://blog.dogids.com/how-to-exercise-in-the-heat/>

Warm Weather Reminders to Keep Your Newf Safe



It is illegal in many states to leave pets in hot cars and many laws carry fines. Check the laws in your state and leave your pet at home in warm weather for their safety.

We've already had some hot days this spring in New England with more to come. Cars can heat to dangerous levels for your Newfoundland in just minutes, even with a window cracked. The thick double coat of a Newf acts like an insulator and can quickly result in heat stroke.

Kirby Veterinary Hospital recommends the following tips to keep pets cool:

- Hike or walk early morning or late evening and avoid pavement and hot sand. This can burn your dogs paw pads!
- Allow pets to have access to AC, or an area that has fans, air circulation, and isn't in the sun
- Fill a kiddie pool with some water in the shade
- Freeze a toy stuffed with treats -always supervise your pet

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Warm Weather Reminders to Keep Your Newf Safe continued from page 4

- Use cooling mats or cooling vests to keep pets comfortable
- Limit pet activity during the heat of the day. Sorry pups, no rough housing in the yard!

Always watch for signs of overheating!

Heat Stroke In Pets

Signs of Heat Stroke

- ⚠ Heavy Panting, Difficulty Breathing
- ⚠ Thick Sticky Saliva, Drooling, Vomiting, Diarrhea
- ⚠ Bright Colored Tongue and Gums
- ⚠ Unsteadiness
- ⚠ Lethargy
- ⚠ Glassy Eyes

Watch out for:
High Outdoor or Indoor Temperatures
High Humidity

What to Do

- Get the Dog out of the Heat
- Cover the Dog in Cold Wet Towels
- Point a Fan at the Dog
- Call Your Vet Immediately

Dogs That Are at Greater Risk:

Senior Dogs, Dogs with Heart Issues, Dogs with Short Muzzles, Puppies, Overweight Dogs, Dogs with Illnesses, Dogs who Exercise a lot

Hot Asphalt!

Air Temperature*	Asphalt Temperature*
77	125
86	135
87	143

*degrees Fahrenheit

At 125 degrees skin destruction can occur in just 60 seconds. Always check the asphalt prior to letting your pet walk on it.

Paws will get burned!

If it's too hot for your bare feet, it's too hot for theirs.

Heroic Dog on the Titanic continued from page 2

Although many people died because of the inadequate number of lifeboats, some of the first boats in the water had empty seats. Passengers with small dogs such as Pekingese and Pomeranians carried their dogs with them on the boats. When it became clear that there were not enough boats for every passenger, beloved pets were left behind. And of course, some dogs were too large for a lifeboat. Ann Isham refused to leave her Great Dane behind and valiantly tried to save him. Sadly, after the sinking, her body was observed in the water with her arms frozen around her beloved dog.

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Heroic Dog on the Titanic continued from page 5

But what of Rigel and the other dogs in the kennels? Murdoch had no opportunity to leave his post to rescue his dog. After the collision, he took charge of the starboard evacuation. Crew members report seeing Murdoch hard at work, attempting to free Collapsible Lifeboat A from the rope tackles used to lower it when a huge wave washed him overboard. He was never seen again.

An unknown passenger went to the kennels and released all of the dogs in an attempt to spare them the horror of drowning in locked cages. Most of the dogs simply disappeared in the cold water and, along with hundreds of passengers, died from exposure.

What happened of Rigel? Newfoundlands were bred for the icy waters of the Atlantic. His webbed feet, rudder-like tail, and water-resistant coat served him well. A Newf's body uses the same mechanisms to combat hypothermia that polar bears possess. This allowed Rigel to endure frigid waters far longer than other dogs.

Rigel swam around, at first apparently desperately looking for his master, but after a while he chose to simply stay close to Lifeboat 4. Of course, he was too large to bring on board even if there had been room, but the humans, in their exposed lifeboat, apparently suffered more from the effects of the wet and cold than Rigel did from the freezing water.

More than two hours after the *Titanic* went down, the passenger ship *Carpathia* finally arrived and began to pick up the surviving passengers. However, it was still dark and a low mist hung on the water. *Carpathia's* crew was calling out and waiting for lifeboat passengers to respond in order to locate them. Lifeboat 4 was separated from the other lifeboats by some distance. Finally, the *Carpathia* began to pull away from the area, unknowingly on a course directly bearing down on the unseen little lifeboat. Its passengers were simply too weak to shout loudly enough to avoid being run down by the ship. Yet, somehow, Rigel was still strong enough to bark. *Carpathia's* Captain Arthur Henry Rostron heard the dog and ordered the ship to stop. Swimming in front of the lifeboat, the dog marked the location of the survivors and all were hauled up the starboard gangway.

The day after the *Carpathia* reached New York with the survivors, the *New York Herald* carried a story about Rigel's significant role in the rescue of *Titanic's* passengers. The reporter noted that, since the dog's owner was dead, one of *Carpathia's* crew named Brigg had adopted him. This was an error, as "Brigg" was the name of a passenger on the lifeboat. Recent evidence suggests that Rigel was adopted by John Brown, *Carpathia's* Master at Arms, who, at 62 years of age was the second oldest crewman. Brown retired shortly after and took Rigel with him to his rural home in Scotland. Presumably, this Newfoundland hero of the *Titanic* tragedy finished out his natural life without ever having to face icy water again.

Article by [Stanley Coren PhD., DSc, FRSC](#)

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/canine-corner/201203/the-heroic-dog-the-titanic>

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Stanley Coren is the author of many books including: [Born to Bark](#), [The Modern Dog](#), [Why Do Dogs Have Wet Noses?](#) [The Pawprints of History](#), [How Dogs Think](#), [How To Speak Dog](#), [Why We Love the Dogs We Do](#), [What Do Dogs Know?](#) [The Intelligence of Dogs](#), [Why Does My Dog Act That Way?](#) [Understanding Dogs for Dummies](#), [Sleep Thieves](#), [The Left-hander Syndrome](#)



Captain William Murdoch
and Rigel

"TNP Alumni" Continued from page 3

Catherine said. "We gave her tons of love and Shadow taught her the art of being a Newf." Wriggley passed away in 2009, at age 6. A heat wave, coupled with the inability to properly pant and a thyroid problem, caused a lethal incident of heat stroke.



Callie

Callie joined the family in 2010 as a puppy from a breeder on the NH/ME line. The gray and white Newf was a swimmer, enjoying the beach year-round.

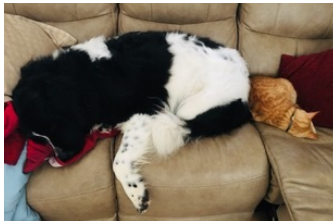
Layla was adopted from TNP in August 2018 at two months old. Mom Riley arrived at TNP in June and gave birth the next day via cesarean section to nine puppies. Layla is Catherine most active Newf. "She loves to go outside and play,"

Catherine said. Layla is her first Newf that loves to go for walks and be brushed. "She's not much of a swimmer but will go in the water," Catherine explained. "And she loves carrots."



Catherine with Lyla

Catherine lost Callie last fall due to bone cancer in her shoulder, so Layla is the only Newf at home. But, she's not lonely as she has two cat brothers that she loves – Franklin and Mattie – plus 8 chickens.



Lyla snuggles with Franklin

Catherine is an empty nester now with daughter Emily at college in North Carolina and adult son James living out of state. She stays active participating in Ironman triathlons. With more time to focus on the dogs, Catherine's dream is to train a Newf for water rescue. But if it doesn't work out, she's still living her dream. "I wouldn't have any other breed," she said. "All I do is love the dogs to pieces."

How much do you know about Newfoundlands?

Test your knowledge with this quiz from the Newfoundland Club of America. The questions are geared toward judging standards, but it's still fun to see what you know about the breed.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7ZHNH3Q>



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