

# Newfie News



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## That Newfoundland Place Celebrates 10 Years

This month marks the 10th anniversary of That Newfoundland Place. Cathy Derench, TNP President, answers questions about the history of TNP and what the future holds.

*How did you get interested in Newfoundlands?*

My first Newf sighting was in high school – a friend’s family had just purchased a pup. I’ll never forget her. Her name was Heidi, she was black and absolutely lovely and sweet. I knew then I wanted a Newf but my mom had this thing about HAIR!!! I knew I had to wait until I was on my own!

*How did you get involved in rescue?*

This all ties in with having to wait until I was on my own to get a Newf, which I did at age 31. and CHARLIE was a rescue! My first Newf was also my first exposure to ear problems, my first bloat, my first and best NEWF TEACHER! He was an amazing 2-year-old neutered male who had been living in the basement of his home because of his size and hair and drool. Although there were not as many back then, there were still Newfs in need and I realized there was a need for helping these amazing dogs.

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### More Than Newfoundlands; TNP Helps Many Breeds and Owners in Need

That Newfoundland Place is about more than Newfies, and helps many dogs and owners in need. That help was a life-changer for Stacy Melanson when her 19-month-old boxer-lab mix Apollo was gravely ill.

It began on February 1, when Apollo woke Stacy at 5:30 am, crying. It was clear to Stacy that he was in pain and she suspected Apollo may have swallowed a non-food item, as he was known as a “chewer” and swallowed a few things he shouldn’t have in the past. By the afternoon, Apollo had not eaten any food and had vomited. Stacy, boyfriend Derek, and son Maddox brought Apollo to their veterinary ER. X-rays showed a blockage and surgery

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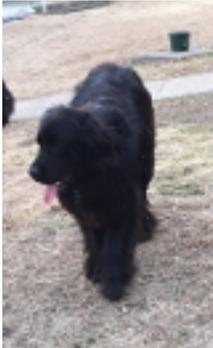
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## Who's at TNP?

### Zelma and Wally



Sweet Zelma (Zee) and Wally are loving and friendly Newfs looking for a home where they can live together.

Be ready to give lots of affection and be active as they love walks and Zelma is a swimmer. Wally will watch her from the shore with you.

Zelma Wally's has SAS (a heart condition), but shows no symptoms.

They are otherwise healthy.

The ideal home will have traditional fencing, minimal stairs, and no other pets; however, an older dog (9 and up) would probably be okay.



Wally

## Recent Adoptions



Three Newfs were adopted from TNP in February!

Pam and Rock took Huck home to MA.

Monte will be living with 2 Newf siblings and parents Tom and Cathie in CT.



Atlas is right at home in New Hampshire with Cathy and Rob and family.



## Expert Excerpts

Dental Health is just as important to dogs as humans. Did you know that 70% of all cats and dogs have evidence of dental disease by the age of 3? Brushing your dog's teeth helps avoid poor oral hygiene, which to you may just seem like bad breath, but to your Newf it may mean infection and pain.

Dr. Lauren Flanagan of [Pepperell \(MA\) Veterinary Hospital](#) recommends introducing teeth brushing to dogs as puppies, but that doesn't mean an older dog can't learn to accept it. Take it slow and be patient. High value rewards after a session work wonders. Just like you and I, daily tooth brushing is the gold standard but if you can work it in once weekly you're far ahead of most dog owners. A child's soft bristle toothbrush or the pediatric fingertip toothbrushes work great. Just be sure to use a toothpaste approved for dogs. If swallowed, human toothpaste can be toxic to dogs.

What do you do if no matter how patient you are, your dog just won't accept the toothbrush? There are a lot of great dental products out there, from water additives and powders you mix in the food, to dental chews and treats. Bones are not strongly recommended as they can break teeth and lead to gastrointestinal problems if swallowed. Talk to your veterinarian about what might be best for your dog.

## TNP Alumni

Sammie is a star at Oak Park Elementary School in Brentwood, NY.

Sammie is in his third year as a certified therapy dog as part of the Doggie Reading Club of Partners in Restorative Animal Assistive Therapy (PRAAT). The Club is designed to encourage children to improve confidence with their reading skills in a fun, de-stressing environment.

Lisa and Don Scott of Saint James, Long Island, NY, adopted Sammie from TNP in August 2015, when he was just 6 months old, the result of a family who realized a Newf pup was more than they could handle. Having owned, and bred, Newfoundlands since the late 1960s, the Scotts are seasoned Newf parents.



Sammie in his school shirt

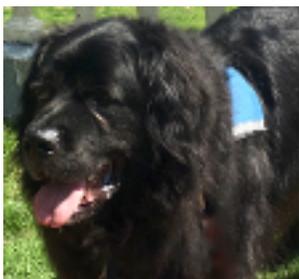
Sammie, who just turned 5 in January, is the Scott's 8th Newfoundland and 5th rescue (4th from TNP). He is their second therapy dog. Newfoundland mix Fogo was their first, in the late 1970s/early 1980s. "I noticed that what he wanted was to make friends with people," Don said. At the time, there were no organized therapy programs, but a conversation with a local nursing home manager led to an arrangement to bring Fogo to visit residents at that and other nursing homes in the area, which continued for years.



Don noticed the same compulsion to meet and greet people in Sammie. To become a therapy dog, Sammie had to pass an obedience course and have a calm demeanor. "Temperament is the determining factor," Lisa said.

Sammie attends a total of 8 classes twice a month, visiting each one every other week. The classes are small and comprised of students needing social, emotional or behavioral assistance. At 180 pounds, Sammie's presence can be intimidating but his good nature quickly puts everyone to ease. "Kids that were terrified the first day are on top of him the next." Lisa said.

"The kids love to brush and comb Sammie and use a drool rag. Teachers see improvement in reading and the kids are more engaged," Lisa said. "The parents are supportive of the program and even teachers who were not dog people are now his biggest fans."



Sammie also visits nursing homes and the State University of NY at Stony Brook during exams. Although there is a big time commitment to the therapy program, the cost is worth it to the Scotts. The smiles Sammie brings to hundreds of faces each year is priceless.



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*What type of rescue work did you do prior to TNP?*

Being a Newf owner and having been a breeder and having shown my dogs for decades, I am a long-time member of the Newfoundland Club of America (NCA) and the Newfoundland Club of New England (NCNE). Prior to TNP I volunteered for NCNE doing rescue. I co-chaired the rescue with friends Ellen Katz, who has since passed, and then with Janet Bloch, who is now the President of the Animal Welfare Society in New Milford CT, an organization that we work closely with as TNP. Additionally, during this same time, I helped my Animal Control Officer friend Sue Carros for years with Protectors of Animals and the dogs for whom she was responsible. My involvement, though primarily with Newfs, has also included many other breeds and mixed breeds.

*Why did you want to start your own rescue?*

Starting our own rescue was about being able to do more. Regional rescues have limitations. I felt we could do more as an independent rescue. For example, we can help people who are out of our region keep their dogs, take dogs from out of our region, and place dogs to great homes also out of our region. We can also extend our help to other breeds and mixed breeds when needed. Clearly we have more flexibility.

*How did you come up with the name TNP?*

For years, well over a decade, we volunteered for NCNE Rescue. We volunteered our home in Coventry for the rescues. They were always housed here in Coventry, we did all the vet runs, the re-habbing after surgeries, we held open houses here for NCNE, and even the Annual Reunion started as a function we did here for NCNE. People came here to meet and adopt their dogs. When asked where they got their Newf, people referred to us as "you know...that Newfoundland place" in Coventry. Hence, our name "That Newfoundland Place" seemed appropriate.

*How many dogs has TNP rescued to date?*

To date, since we started in March 2010, we have placed 274 dogs. These are dogs who have physically come through Coventry - came here, were vetted, healed, socialized, and prepped for their new homes. Not included in the 274 are some direct referrals where dogs were able to move from one home to another new approved home. This is not a common practice, but there have been some over the past 10 years. Also not included in the 274 are the dogs we have helped stay in their homes through assistance with vet, training, food, etc.

*What has been the most challenging part of running a rescue?*

This is a really good question and there is NOT one simple answer because there are an endless amount of challenges. The basic challenges include raising funds to support the rescue efforts which is on going with us; acquiring a good TEAM of people to work within the organization - all of us are volunteers and we are fortunate to have great people volunteering for TNP; creating and maintaining a stellar reputation which is key to our success; and keeping a positive outlook and having patience when we have to deal with difficult situations. We are committed NOT to be judgmental. We are here to help, but clearly some situations are more difficult than others and present more of a challenge - working with the Mill dogs, for example.

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*How has TNP changed over the years?*

TNP has grown. We now get requests from all over the country, for help or to adopt. We like to refer adoption requests to the Newf Regional club in the area of the request. We do work with the Regional clubs and are grateful for the relationship we have with them and with the NCA. We also work with other organizations to help with other breeds and mixed breeds and our exposure in this arena has also grown. We now have a number of people doing what I used to do myself 10 years ago, so it's all good. The most important thing that is stressed to our TEAM about growth, however, is that we need to be sure that we never take on more than we can handle well. Other rescues have fallen into that situation, to their detriment.

*What is your vision for the next 10 years?*

Visions include continuing to help dogs and their people, securing the Coventry location for the future of TNP and bringing up dedicated people to run TNP and keep it moving forward. This is one reason we so promote our community service opportunities. The younger generation who sticks with us will be the ones running this at some point. We are grateful to have the privilege of having some of these people on board now and work at teaching them every day about what we do and share our knowledge and our philosophy. Our first 10 years have started our process to prepare for our future.

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*More Than Newfoundlands Continued from page 1*

was suggested. Stacy, currently not working, did not have the money for the surgery. Apollo was hydrated with fluids and sent home with pain medication and antacids, in the hopes that he would be able to pass the blockage on his own.

Two days later, showing no improvement, Apollo was brought back to the ER for more fluids. By the morning of February 5, Apollo had not eaten anything in 5 days. Stacy was in a panic. "I was watching him die," Stacy said. She began researching and emailing rescue organizations, hospitals, universities and foundations that may be able to help her. Stacy received a call from Nancy of Veterinary Specialists of CT, who offered to make a few calls on her behalf. Shortly after, Stacy received a call from Cathy at TNP.



Cathy suggested ways Stacy could garner support to pay for the surgery and helped her set up a Go Fund Me page. Later that morning Cathy called again, stating TNP had raised almost half of the estimated money needed for surgery and asked if Stacy could get Apollo to Mansfield, CT at 8:00 am the next day for the surgery. The TNP Foundation would cover the cost of the surgery. "I couldn't believe that so many strangers would help me," Stacy said. Relieved, Stacy didn't have much time to collect herself when Cathy called again in the early afternoon asking if Stacy could get Apollo to Veterinary Specialists of CT at 1:00 that afternoon for surgery. Despite not having a driver's license and Derek at work, Stacy and Apollo were there.

That night, the vet called, reporting a successful surgery and that Apollo was doing well. He

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was ready to go home the next day and to Stacy's delight was eating, walking, and urinating at home. On Friday, Apollo ate a few teaspoons of food for breakfast but refused food the rest of the day. He was not taking his pain medication, had trouble getting up and his temperature was up and down. A call to the hospital suggested monitoring Apollo overnight and returning to the hospital the next day if there was no improvement.



Saturday afternoon Apollo and his family were back at Veterinary Specialists of CT. An ultrasound revealed an internal leak and Apollo was now septic. Another surgery was an option but would require a long hospital stay, costing over \$10,000. The other option was euthanasia. "It was a horrible choice, but the right choice," Stacy said. "I didn't want to let him suffer any longer." Stacy and Maddox said goodbye to Apollo. Despite having several dogs as a child and adult, it was the first time Stacy was present during euthanasia.

Stacy had Apollo since he was 5 months old and he was very attached to Stacy from the beginning. "He was really something special. He was affectionate and loved to snuggle on the couch," she said. "He also bonded with my 7-year-old son. He called Apollo his brother."

Stacy was devastated by the loss of Apollo, but was able to shift her energy to the positive. "I am able to focus not on Apollo being gone, but that TNP saved his life. I can't help but feel happy about that," she said. The few hundred dollars Stacy raised from her Go Fund Me page will be donated to TNP. "I can't thank them enough. I'm so grateful there are people like them. I am forever changed as a person for the immense selflessness and kindness Cathy and TNP has showed me and my dog."

## Upcoming Events

Spring is on the way! The first TNP Open House in 2020 is next month. Meet Newfoundland dogs, talk to TNP staff and enjoy a pizza lunch. No dogs adopted out on this day; solely a meet & greet.

**April 26, noon-3:00 pm**, rain or shine

554 Pucker St, Coventry, CT

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That Newfoundland Place Inc. is a nonprofit corporation organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes. Specifically, this organization has been formed to prevent cruelty to animals. Our mission is to offer quality of life to senior dogs of various breeds, to assist in rescue, rehabilitation, and re-homing of dogs in need, with a focus on Newfoundland dogs, and to provide humane education as related to care and life quality. of animals. Cathy Derench, President