

# Newfie News



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## Keep Your Newf Looking Good Between Groomings

With pet groomers closed for several weeks due to the coronavirus health crisis, your Newfoundland may be looking a little ragged. It may be daunting to tackle a full grooming yourself, but there are some things you can do at home until you can get your Newf back to the groomer or in between grooms.

Before you begin, it's important to have the right tools. Cheryl Brady and Erika Jackson, owners of Creature Comforts Pet Grooming Salon in Sterling, MA, recommend a few basic tools, including a metal comb, a coat rake, a slicker brush, and a de-shedding tool (such as a Furminator) on long coats. Other items to keep your Newf looking freshly groomed are ear wash, nail clippers/nail Dremel, small clippers/scissors for under foot hair, and a coat conditioning spray for static.

Make sure the tools you are using are in good working order to protect you and your pup. It can help to exercise your dog prior to grooming and keep your Newf on a leash while brushing them. Cheryl & Erika recommend using food to reinforce good behaviors like staying still, not biting the brush, and not running away. Try grooming during breakfast or put peanut butter, cream cheese, or other soft and spreadable foods on a plate/bowl for the dog to lick while you brush.

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## Expert Excerpts

*With Dr. Lauren Flanagan of [Pepperell \(MA\) Veterinary Hospital](#)*

Ear infections in your Newf can be painful and uncomfortable, but treating them can be tricky. Ear infections are typically caused by bacteria or yeast, both normal in your dog's ear canals in a proper balance, but under certain conditions one or both organisms can overgrow and cause inflammation and infection. Your veterinarian may take a sample of your dog's ear discharge to determine whether it is bacteria (and the type), yeast, or both that is contributing to the infection. This test is important for veterinarians to determine how to treat the infection properly. A culture may need to be taken to identify the strain of bacteria to identify which medication will be effective.

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## Who's at TNP?

### Zelma and Wally

Zelma and Wally are sheltering in place at TNP.

This bonded pair love long walks, treats and cuddles. Zelma is looking forward to some water time to show off her swimming skills. Wally is more of a land lover.

Wally has SAS (a heart condition) but is asymptomatic. Otherwise, both dogs are healthy.

TNP is looking for a home with traditional fencing, minimal stairs, and no other pets; however, a dog 9 or older would probably be okay.



## Recently Adopted

Two-year-old Maya had a short stay at TNP. She arrived on May 20 from NY. She was quickly vetted and groomed and in her new home on May 24 in MA with Heidi Maloni.



## Upcoming Events

### June Open House Canceled

Due to the coronavirus health crisis, The TNP Open House for June 7 has been canceled. The safety of guests and TNP staff is always top of mind.

Check the [TNP website](#) and Facebook page for the most recent announcements regarding the Open House schedule. The tentative schedule of events for 2020 is:

**July 19 - Open House**

**August 30 - Open House**

**October 11 - Annual Fundraiser and Reunion**

**November - date TBD - Final Open House**  
(pending weather)

All events held at :

554 Pucker Street  
Coventry, CT

All open houses are strictly meet and greets. No dogs are adopted at these events. Learn about the breed, meet former TNP Newfs and their parents, talk to TNP staff, and fill out an application for adoption. Pizza and beverages served.

### Home Checks and Adoptions Temporarily Suspended

That Newfoundland Place has suspended home checks, which are needed to get homes approved and ready for a new family member. TNP has had many requests for home checks and will keep everyone advised as to when they will resume.

Be sure to check the TNP Facebook page for more information.

## TNP Alumni

Sometimes the expectations we set for a new dog can be difficult for the dog to attain. And sometimes the dog is everything we hoped he or she would be and more. The latter is the case with the Monterosso family and Sophie.

Paul, Pam and Caden Monterosso adopted Sophie in November, 2018, when she was just 13 months old. Sophie had been at TNP with Tank, the pair surrendered by their former owners due to financial difficulties. "It was clear Sophie was taken care of and loved by her previous owners," Paul said. "She was well trained when we got her."



Sophie is the Monterosso's very first Newfoundland, but they did their due diligence in researching the breed and knowing what to expect and making sure their family situation would give the dog the best chance of success.

The family lost their Lab Jasper in 2005 due to cancer but realized it was not the right time to get another dog. "Schedule-wise we did not have enough time to devote to a dog, but the schedule has changed a bit over the last couple of years and I am home earlier in the afternoon," Paul said.

"Pam has always loved Newfoundland dogs," Paul said. "Her good friend and colleague Terry Cormier had adopted 6 Newfoundlands from TNP and used to bring one to the hospital [where Pam works] for therapy, so Pam got to know the dogs. She talked to Terry for a couple of years about them."

The Monterosso's also researched the breed. "We knew about the hair and the drool," Paul said. A fence was installed in the yard and carpeting laid down on the hardwood floors to ready the home for a Newfoundland.

Sophie's arrival has not disappointed. "She's good natured, perfect really," Paul said. "She's gentle and easygoing. Good with people but protective too."

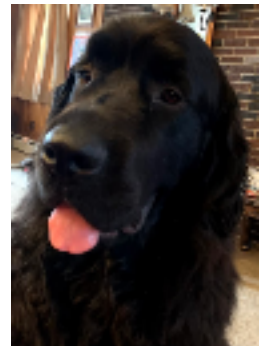
Sophie has also won over Pam's mom Connie and Paul's mom Marty. "[Marty] loves to babysit and will ask us to leave Sophie with her, even on short trips to the store," Paul said. "She gets on the floor to play with her. I say that Sophie is her favorite granddaughter."

Sophie's activity and walks – which she loves – have been limited due to an injury last year, but she still enjoys her other favorite activities – car rides, squeaky stuffed toys and, like any good Newf, spending time with her people in her Pittsfield, MA home that she shares with

15-year-old feline sister Ava.



Sophie has far exceeded expectations and converted the Monterossos into a Newf family. "There's a huge difference between a dog and a Newfie," Paul said. "We would absolutely get another Newf."



Before brushing, combing is best for long and double-coated dogs. "We recommend a metal comb as it is the best at getting down to the skin. We use a brush as a finishing touch after combing," Cheryl said. "Start at the top of the head and work down the dog's back. Focusing on areas that mat the most like behind the ears, the chest, arm pit area, the leg feathers, the tail, and the bum feathers. If your dog sits, try brushing another area."

"Many dogs can't sit through a long brush-out session so keep it short and break it up throughout the week. We also recommend at least a once per week thorough brushing/ combing of the coat," Erika said.

If your Newf is smelling not-so-fresh, pet wipes, dry shampoo, and coat sprays can eliminate the odor. Newfs can tolerate a bath at home as frequently as once per week as long as you are able to dry your dog after a bath and use a high-quality dog shampoo and conditioner. Use lukewarm water and rinse very well. To avoid getting water in the ears, use cotton balls. If you use a dryer it should be on a cool setting and kept several inches away from your pup to avoid burns or skin irritation.

Remember to keep your dog's nails trimmed as well. Most dogs do not sufficiently wear down their nails from walking on pavement. They require regular maintenance to keep them short. Cheryl and Erika recommend nail trims every week to 2 weeks. "If your dog hates nail trims they can be taught to file their own nails with a 'scratch board,'" Erika said.

No matter what grooming you do at home, try to keep the grooming process a positive one. Getting frustrated or annoyed with your dog during the grooming process can have long-term negative effects.

Once you can get your Newf back to the groomer, Cheryl and Erika recommend a professional grooming at least every 8-12 weeks. "Some dogs require more frequent grooming if they are adolescents going through a coat change, older dogs who can't handle a long grooming appointment, dogs with medical conditions, and dogs during seasonal coat change," they said. "We also recommend not shaving your double-coated dog (at home or in general). The coat helps protect them from hot/cold temperatures, bugs, the sun, and the environment. Keeping the dog well brushed/combed out will help keep them cool in the summer and warm in the winter." *[Editors note: there are circumstances when shaving the coat is necessary and in the best interest of the dog such as severe matting and skin allergies.]*

Creature Comforts is a Fear Free Certified pet grooming salon, focusing on the dog's behavioral and emotional well-being as well as producing a quality groom. Positive reinforcement (such as food, toys, and freedom) and minimal restraint is used. The comfort of the pets, including noise level, is the top priority. They utilize low-stress handling techniques such as having one person hold and feed while the other grooms. Fear Free is a certification for groomers, veterinarians, trainers, and recently shelter staff. The goal of Fear Free is to reduce fear, stress, and anxiety for all animals.



Why do the organisms get out of balance in the first place? Anything that can upset the balance between bacteria and yeast can contribute to one or the other overgrowing, including general antibiotics as well as topical antibiotics and anti-fungals that are made for the ear. Be sure not to use previously prescribed medication for your Newf as it likely won't work. Many medications prescribed are specific for yeast or bacteria and, if used incorrectly, not only can they destroy the balance between the two, thus allowing one to overgrow, but improper use can also select for resistant bacteria.

Excessive moisture in the ear can also contribute to ear infections, whether from a bath, swimming or just moisture that is trapped by those big floppy ears. *[Editor's note: keeping the hair short o the flap and under the ear canal may help reduce trapped moisture.]* When water gets in the ear canal it can create inflammation, upsetting the natural balance of the ear canal. Inflamed tissue loses its defenses against normally harmless bacteria that are usually present. Allergies can also cause ears to become inflamed, red and itchy. If you think of the lining of your dog's ear canal as skin, because essentially the tissue is the same, you can understand how allergies will affect the inside of the ear as they do the skin.

Sometimes the body's attempt to protect itself contributes to chronic and recurrent ear infections. With chronic inflammation, the body's defenses are triggered to try and contain this inflammation. This can lead to scarring and thickening of tissue, and in severe cases, calcification of the soft tissue of the ear canal. Scarred and thickened tissue defenses are impaired and cannot protect itself from its own natural microbes. These changes also make topical and systemic delivery of medication to the infected tissue very difficult, if not impossible. These are the cases that often require surgery. That is just one of reasons to address your dog's ear infection in a timely manner.

The majority of dog ear infections affect the external ear canal only. This is why vets often use topical medication, as opposed to the oral medication that is usually used for children with recurrent ear infections. Children often have infection in the middle ear, and therefore are prescribed oral medication. Why is this difference important? An external infection rarely requires oral antibiotics unless it is a resistant organism. Using oral antibiotics for external infections could contribute to antibiotic resistance which is a major problem in medicine today, not to mention the systemic side effects to your Newf. Another important difference is that if the ear drum is injured in any way, the topical medications may be able to pass into the middle ear, and may cause problems with balance and hearing. Thus, veterinarians usually require an examination before dispensing ear medication, to look into your dog's ear canal and make sure the eardrum is healthy and intact.

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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