

Newfie News



That
Newfoundland
Place
Rescue With A Heart

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How to Make a Plan for Your Newf

Last month's article "Have an Emergency Preparedness Plan for your Pets" outlined emergency preparedness kits for your pets. It covered what you need to consider if your pets need to be cared for by someone else, such as food, medications, vaccination documents, etc.

In reality, there is so much more to consider beyond an emergency kit when it comes to making a plan for your Newf, or any pet. If you don't make it home from the store, who will take care of your Newf? If something happens to you, where will he/she go?

Debra Vey Voda Hamilton is an attorney at Hamilton Law and Mediation in New York, the nation's first solo mediation practice dedicated to helping people resolve conflicts over animals. She also helps pet owners create short and long term care plans for their pets. "Be proactive," Debra said. "Our pets are counting on us to make a plan for them."

It's a good idea to include instructions for the care of your Newf in your will, yet that is not enough. Debra notes, "if your plans are only in a will, those directives are only valid after you die." Debra encourages all pet owners to prepare for the seven "Ds": death, divorce, disability, dementia, disease, disaster, and delay. Consider short and long term what will happen to your Newf if something happens to you.

If you don't make a written plan, your Newf could end up going to a place or person you don't want, without their medication, or worse (even death).

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From Cathy Derench

Hi Friends,

Three weeks ago, we took in 2 dogs from Queens NY, Berner 4 year old, Cooper, and Newfoundland 6 year old, Brynn. We had a ton of help from many beyond awesome people who volunteered to walk the dogs for the incapacitated owner until we could get them to CT, and who volunteered to transport the dogs to us.

Upon arrival in CT both dogs were understandably nervous but with positive attention, hugs, and treats they began settling in after a short time. A few days after their arrival, vet appointments were done to get our normal basics done - bloodwork, CBC, CHEM, 4DX, urinalysis. Brynn was already spayed so we made a tentative appointment for Cooper for neuter pending his blood and urine results. All results were good! We were now waiting for a neuter appointment.

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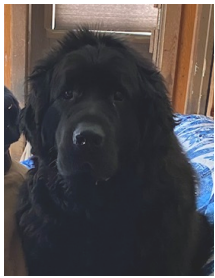
Who's at TNP?

French Bulldogs **Stripe** and **Vivi** arrived at TNP in October, along with another Frenchie (already adopted). All of the dogs had eye problems.



Vivi with Brenda;

Stripe posing with Carlos
Vivi was spayed this month and went to her new home on February 27. Stripe, the most compromised of the three, will remain at TNP for now. The Frenchies will need to have their eyes re-checked in 6 months.

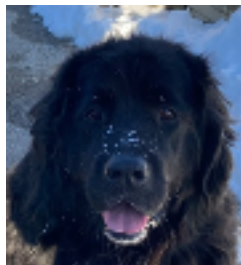


Buster is a lovely and active 3 year old male surrendered by his owner due to an excessive work schedule. The owner wanted Buster to have someone to spend more time with him. This big boy - 180 lbs - arrived at TNP on February 14. A potential adopter has been identified.

Recently Adopted

Brynn arrived at TNP on Feb 4 from Queens, NY. She went home to her new family, Beth & Charlie Daloz in Keene, NH, on Feb 21 and is doing well.

There have been a few challenges with Brynn, including walking down the hallway to get out the door of their condo, transitioning to some of the common rooms in the building, and walking upstairs (she does well walking downstairs and in the elevator). Brynn does very well outside and is interested in other dogs and people at a distance. The Daloz's sense some uneasiness but have already seen her become more comfortable in just a week. "She's adjusting and so are we," Beth said.



Brynn is Beth's 11th Newf and 9th rescue, all from the Newfoundland Club of New England or TNP. The Daloz's last Newf, Blackberry, passed away last November. "I've had Newfs for 35 years and I couldn't stand being alone," Beth said. "Brynn made me happy."

From Cathy Derench continued from page 1

We had a home lined up that was interested in adopting both dogs together. Our goal was to place them together regardless of how long that took. During that time, Cooper started to get picky about eating. They had already been here for a week and this was something new. Chicken, salmon, etc., were offered and though Cooper ate, it wasn't the same as when he arrived. We re-did his bloodwork - the CBC, CHEM, 4DX and added additional panels. Another urinalysis was performed. All still looked good but he had become even a more picky eater. X-rays were scheduled and performed and a tumor was found.

Surgery was scheduled for the following morning in order to give Cooper every possible chance. He was only 4 years old. Cooper passed in his sleep the night before his scheduled surgery.

We are grateful that he was with us. We have kept in touch with the former owner who is grateful for all that we did for Cooper. Things happen for a reason and, sadly, in rescue these things do happen as they happen with all of us and our own dogs. We are grateful that we were able to handle this so that the former owner did not have to.

Sometimes heartbreak happens in rescue also and we understand this. This is why we want to be the ones with the dogs when they go through testing, surgery, healing, and any diagnosis that is not an easy fix. We prefer to hold our dogs until we get through all of this to ensure that if there is an issue, it is when the dogs are with us and not a new owner. We always appreciate your support and understanding! AND, on a more positive note, Brynn, the 6 year old Newfoundland, is in her new home and thriving!

Expert Excerpts

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

What is Arthritis?

There are over 100 types of arthritis in humans. One of the most common, osteoarthritis, affect both humans and animals. The term "arthritis" is often used to describe many conditions that compromise the health of the joint.

Dr. Flanagan explains causes, which dogs are most often affected and where arthritis can occur.

Arthritis simply mean inflammation of the joint. There are many different causes of arthritis in animals but in all cases the end result is the same - pain in the joint. Arthritis can be caused by infection in the joint, normal wear and tear, malformation of the joint, immune mediated disease, and trauma, to name a few. I will focus on the normal wear and tear and joint malformation in this article. "Wear and tear" stretches the soft tissue around the joint and wears on the cartilage creating inflammation in the joint. Joint malformation causes abnormal movement in the joint leading to the same soft tissue stretch and abnormal wear of the cartilage. Cartilage serves as a smooth cushion between the ends of the bones in the joint. When it wears away the bone is rubbing on bone, which is called end stage joint disease.

Which dogs are affected?

Arthritis affects dogs of all sizes. We think of it more as a large breed dog disease but little dogs are victims as well. Fortunately for the little guys, they can be picked up and carried around so the quality of life implications are fewer. Even so, they still experience pain and

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TNP Alumni

Newfoundlands not only bring joy and comfort to their owners, but to their pet siblings as well. When Harry and Sue Shea brought home Biscuit to their Newf Vivien, they found that Biscuit increased Vivien's confidence and provided her with security.

The Shea's have been Newf owners for over 6 years. They adopted their first Newf, Fred, from That Newfoundland Place in 2013 at age 2. Fred was in foster care and his foster mom coordinated a meeting in a park with the Shea's to determine if they passed muster. At the first meeting, Fred ran to the Shea's, sealing his fate as a well-loved member of their family. Just 3 years later, in August 2016, Fred passed away quickly and unexpectedly from heart failure.

In June 2017, the Shea's looked to adopt another Newf and found Vivien, a 2-year-old, through Big Fluffy Dogs.



Vivien (l) & Biscuit (r)

Vivien was adopted from Tennessee and was re-homed because she did not get along well with the other dog in the home. Vivien took to Sue instantly but was not confident around others, as she had only been exposed to the woman she lived with and was not taken on walks or socialized with other people and dogs. "She was shy at first," Sue said. "She had to get used to Harry."

A little over a year later the Shea's were looking to add another Newf and reached out to TNP. Biscuit, an owner surrender from NY, went to their Haddam, CT home in October. He and Vivien get along very well. "Biscuit is more outgoing," Sue said. "He wants to meet people and dogs. He has a lot of love to give. Biscuit has brought Vivien out of her shell a little bit. She wonders what she's missing out on."

Both Vivien and Biscuit love the water (for wading, not swimming), and the snow. Biscuit especially loves being outside and their favorite

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How to Make a Plan for Your Newf continued from page 1

The plan can be as detailed as you want (See MAAP side bar for what to consider). The most important thing to do is to have a plan – *in writing*. In fact, if you don't have a written plan in place, your local animal control can take your dog in an emergency. "After 7 days, if they are not able to reach you about your wishes for the animal, the animal will be taken to a rescue or shelter," Debra said. "By law, if the dog is adopted from the shelter or rescue, the owner will not be able to get the animal back."

Have clear and visible instructions on who to contact for the pet's care. Placing instructions on the refrigerator or in the entryway will alert people that you have a plan and who to call. Put an index card in your car when you travel with similar information about caregivers in case you are in an accident or otherwise don't make it home.

Your child/spouse may seem like the obvious choice as a caregiver. However, they may appreciate having other caregivers available to take care of the dog if they are not able to at the time, are taking care of you at the time, or really don't want to care for your pets but may feel guilty and not want to upset you by saying no.

The pandemic has highlighted the importance of preparing both locally and distantly. What if the borders are shut down due to an emergency or there is a shelter in place proclamation? Your family member who lives 100 miles away may not be able to help.

Debra also recommends building a pet trust outside your will to pay for your pet's immediate expenses with his or her new caregiver/owner (a trust and estate attorney can draft this). Wills can sit in probate for 6-12 months, but a pet trust is available immediately to ensure payment of your pet's needs or the use of another caregiver. Debra suggests \$1,000-\$2,000 in the trust to cover the cost of transportation of your pet to a preferred caregiver, food, and vet check ups for a few months. "If you're over 65, make the trust irrevocable," Debra said. "If you become ill and the pet trust is not irrevocable the money in the trust will be clawed back into your estate to care for you."

There is a lot to think about to ensure your Newf is cared for if something were to happen to you. This preparation will assure that you have provided your Newf with the best care possible and you with piece of mind.

Debra offers a free Zoom webinar: MAAP Pet Care

Community Call Wednesdays at 6:30 pm EST where she answers questions about creating a plan.

The link to webinar is published on Debra's website: <https://hamiltonlawandmediation.com/>

The M.A.A.P. Plan

Make a Plan– Where do you want your pet(s) to go? If you have more than one dog or pet, do they need to stay together? Do you want them to stay in a certain area so they can be near dog friends or family? Do you want the dog to live near a lake so he/she can go swimming? Consider what is realistic.

Address the Needs of Your Pet– What is their feeding and medication regimen? Do they have a special toy that they can't be without? Are there certain types of dogs/people they don't get along with? Do they have allergies or medical needs? Are they afraid of certain things, such as thunder? How should they be comforted? What are their likes and dislikes?

Appoint Caregivers– Think of at least 3 people who can take your pet (only 1 should be a family member). Consider caregivers in different geographic areas. If you choose 3 neighbors and the neighborhood is devastated by a hurricane, where would your Newf go? Make sure your caregivers approve of your plan.

TNP is also a source for long term care of your Newf.

Publish the plan– Provide each caregiver with a plan so they know who to call in case they need someone else to take your dog. Give a copy to your attorney, family members, and veterinarian (they can refuse treatment to your pet if someone else brings them in without your written permission).



Vivien (l) & Biscuit (r)

activity is a walk or any kind of hike. They are well traveled throughout New England and often enjoy an outdoor lunch with Harry and Sue after a hike.

"When they are in a new place (like a restaurant), they need to touch each other," Sue said. No doubt, providing reassurance and comfort to each other.

Harry and Sue had always liked the Newfoundland breed. Growing up, a neighbor of Sue's grandparents had a Newf and she was fascinated by the dog. Harry had a friend in Massachusetts who lived down the street from breeder Kathy Luce (Dingle Newfoundlands) and he visited her to get more information about the breed. Sue always had Labs as an adult, but when her last Lab passed away, with whom she had a very special bond, she did not want another Lab for fear he/she would never live up to the comparison. Newfoundlands seemed a logical alternative, specifically one from a rescue.

Most of Harry and Sue's dogs had been rescues (one purchased from a breeder). "The [rescue] dogs needed a home," Sue said. "And we didn't want a puppy because we both work during the day. We were looking for an older dog, around two." The Shea's met Cathy at a TNP open house (and she is good friends with Kathy Luce), so they filled out an application and after a few months got the call about Fred. They have been hooked on Newfs ever since.

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discomfort from arthritis. The big guys not only experience the pain, but it affects their activity level and mobility, hence what most owners perceive as quality of life concerns.

Where does arthritis most commonly occur?

Arthritis can occur in any joint. In certain breeds we think of the hips, secondary to hip dysplasia, a "joint malformation." Commonly we see arthritis in the knee secondary to the instability and wear and tear created by injuring the cruciate ligaments. Small breed dogs are predisposed to luxating patellas, also known as trick knee, which can lead to arthritis in the knee. Newfs are a large breed dog that also have a predisposition to luxating patellas. The elbows are commonly affected due to elbow dysplasia. Labrador retrievers are prone to arthritis in the tarsus (hock or ankle) secondary to a developmental cartilage defect in the joint. Any joint can be affected by arthritis, but we tend to see clinical signs of joint pain such as limping, decreased mobility, reluctance or difficulty getting up or lying down when the large, more mobile joints are affected.

Next month: diagnosing arthritis and preventative measures

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