

# Newfie News



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## Spring Pests Can Cause Discomfort for You and Your Newf

With the longer days and warming temperatures, you may be spending more time outside with your Newf, playing in the yard or on longer walks. But there are thousands of dangers awakening and lurking in the yard for you – and your Newf.

Bees, wasps, hornets, and other stinging insects are the most common pests that can cause discomfort to your Newfie. If your dog's face puffs up to two or three times its normal size, your first thought will likely be a sting. Wasps, hornets and yellow jackets can sting victims multiple times and cause the most pain. Honeybees only sting once as the stinger remains in the victim.

Most stinging insects will only attack when provoked, but a big black nose poking around a nest or trying to catch an insect will insight an attack. While the stings are not lethal unless in large quantities, some dogs may be more sensitive to others. You may notice pain at the site of the bite, swelling, redness, hotness, itchiness, and hives. Mild symptoms usually resolve themselves without major intervention in about a day, but the stinger should be removed if it is in sight. Hydrocortisone cream can be applied to provide itch relief and a cold compress can help alleviate pain and swelling. Benadryl, or other allergy relief medication, is also often effective. Check with your veterinarian for dosage. Dogs that exhibit vomiting, diarrhea, weakness, collapse, seizures, respiratory distress, and cardiovascular arrest may be highly allergic and should be seen by a veterinarian immediately.



*Bug bite swelling near the eye  
photo from pethelpful.com*

There are over 300,000 varieties of spiders worldwide and probably a large variety in your own yard. You may not notice them but your curious Newf may discover them in plants, near rocks, or on the ground. Nearly all spiders are poisonous but with microscopic mouths and fangs, do little to no damage to any victim. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), there are only three spiders in the US with threatening venom - Black Widow spiders, Brown Recluse spiders and the Hobo spiders. Only Northern Black Widows are native to New

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## Who's at TNP?



**Stripe** the French Bulldog is still at TNP and receiving ongoing treatment for his eye with further checkups scheduled this summer. He is not available for adoption at this time

Check for updates on the TNP Facebook page and in the newsletter.

## Placing Your Newf on Your Own

This month, TNP assisted in a Newf placement due to allergies in the family. After assisting with medical expenses for neutering, vaccinations and treatment for Lyme disease, TNP provided a qualified Newf owner. Milo went to his new home in late March.

If you are considering placing your dog yourself, TNP urges you to use a responsible rescue to place your dog. Check the rescue's references. Talk with folks who have used the rescue.

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## Recently Adopted

**Buster** went to his forever home with Deb & Hal Robinson in West Hartford, CT on March 11. Buster, 3, was surrendered when his owner felt he did not have enough time for him. He is still adjusting to his new home but Deb reports "he's improved tremendously since we first got him." He has already shown Deb & Hal that he is smart, funny and sweet.



Buster is the Robinson's 4th Newfoundland. They got their first Newf Reuben from a breeder in 1999. Despite being a reputable breeder, Reuben had numerous health problems. That prompted Deb to consider a rescue for her next dog. "I realized I wasn't getting any guarantees with a breeder dog. And it felt good to give a dog a home that needed one," she said. Deb started researching Newfoundland rescues and contacted the Newfoundland Club of New England (NCNE), where she met Cathy Derench.

A couple of years later when Rueben passed away and they were ready for another Newf, the Robinsons contacted NCNE. In 2007 they brought home Lacy. She only lived with Deb & Hal for two and a half years but they adored her.

Fiddler was adopted from TNP in 2012. Deb said, "he was a wonderful dog but had severe separation anxiety." Still, Deb noted they wouldn't change a thing about him even if they could. Fiddler passed away on March 23, 2020.

Deb has a long history of dogs. growing up with several in her childhood. She remembers vividly her first encounter with a Newf. "We went to Provincetown every summer. One year there was a huge black dog on the sidewalk and I swear he took up two squares. It was very impressive."



Hal did not grow up with dogs and they debated for a long time on the type of dog they would get as their first. He bought Deb a book of dog breeds and his only requirement was "no monsters and no droolers." They spent a lot of time researching and Deb identified dogs she liked the look of, but in the end, the personality of the Newfoundland won out. "I decided they were the dog for me," she said. "They are delightful, wonderful dogs."

Buster is meeting new friends on his walks

## Expert Excerpts

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

### Diagnosing Arthritis & Preventative Measures

Arthritis is inflammation of the joint. It can affect all dogs and occur in any joint, resulting in pain and stiffness.

Believe it or not, diagnosing arthritis can be difficult. Radiographs unfortunately are not a sensitive diagnostic test. By the time we see changes on X-ray the disease is often advanced. Sadly, this is when most of our patients are diagnosed. Therefore, focusing on preventative measures is so important. Keep your dog at an ideal weight at all life stages, avoid high impact activities in young growing dogs, screen all breeding dogs and remove dogs from breeding programs if they pass on orthopedic abnormalities, and discuss post pubescent sterilization with your veterinarian in high-risk dogs.

Despite all of the preventative measures some dogs will still develop arthritis. Treating arthritis should involve a multimodal plan. We need to improve the joint function, maintain the strength of muscles supporting the joint, reduce the inflammation in the joint, and address the pain the dog may be feeling. If possible, an underlying issue should be corrected, such as surgical repair of a torn cruciate ligament. Oral glucosamine and chondroitin joint supplements help nourish the joint fluid and cartilage. Omega 3 fatty acid supplements reduce inflammation in the joint. There are also injectable joint support products on the market. Physical therapy is very important in managing arthritis. If the muscles aren't used they will start to atrophy, or waste, leading to weakness and lack of support

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## TNP Alumni

Longtime TNP adopters Paul and Paula Bourassa and their now adult daughter Paige, have adopted Newfs from a variety of situations, but each dog has enriched their lives through his/her sweet temperament and unique personality.

Paul said he has "wanted a Newf for as long as I can remember." His first encounter was as a young adult. He instantly knew it was the breed he was meant to have. It took a little time for it to become a reality though. Paul had a Lab and Cocker Spaniel when he met Paula, who grew up with Schnauzers. Paul did his due diligence researching Newfs, and found the Newfoundland Rescue of New England (NCNE) about 20 years ago. That's where he met Cathy Derench.



Chloe

Chloe became part of the family through NCNE around 18 years ago. "She was the greatest dog I've ever encountered," Paul remembered. "She could talk to me through her gestures and expressions." Paula added, "It's like they had their own language."

Cindy came next, adopted at age 1 about 15 years ago. She had a true lifesaving instinct. Paul and Paula had a hot tub at their Concord, NH home and Cindy would not let them go in without lifeguarding.



Cindy

Emma is the only Newf that was not a direct placement from NCNE/TNP. Around 12 years ago they fostered a 3-year-old Newf for 3 weeks due to a family hardship. The fostering went well for the healthy and happy girl. "Seven months later I saw her on Craigslist," Paul explained. "I knew her immediately." They



Emma

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*Spring Pests Can Cause Discomfort for You and Your Newf continued from page 1*

England and sightings are extremely rare; a sigh of relief for you and your Newf.

Even if he or she is bitten, your Newf, and all dogs, are fairly resistant to the venom. Still, single bites from black widow spiders can be lethal to other pet animals, including horses, cats, and guinea pigs. Symptoms of a venomous bite usually develop within 8 hours and can include pain, cramping, vomiting, diarrhea, restlessness, vocalization, excessive drooling, seizures, fast heart rate, abdominal rigidity, and respiratory distress. There is an anti-venom available which typically resolves symptoms within 30 minutes.

Snakes are cold-blooded animals that can be found in just about any type of climate: deserts, forests, swamps, and grasslands, and are no stranger to the Northeast. Many are harmless and beneficial to your yard, eating insects and small vermin. There are, however, 21 species of poisonous snakes in the US. Fortunately, New England is home to only two venomous snakes - the timber rattlesnake and the copperhead.



Snake bite wound  
Photo from  
Capper's Farmer.com

The telltale sign of a bite will be two small puncture wounds on your dog, usually in the face, neck or leg. You may not see the bite, but other signs, including sudden weakness and collapse, followed by your pet getting up normally, which is characteristic of snake bites (although other problem can cause this type of collapse). You may also notice trembling, shaking, diarrhea, vomiting, weakness in hind legs, excessive drooling or frothing at the mouth, bloody urine, dilated pupils and paralysis.

If you suspect your pet has been bitten by a snake, seek veterinary attention immediately. Call the clinic so they can prepare to treat your Newf as soon as you arrive. Stay calm, as your Newf can sense panic, which may increase their stress levels and cause venom to be circulated in the body more quickly. The good news is that most pets survive a snake bite if attended to immediately.

While the risk of serious injury to your Newf from these backyard pests remains low, being aware of what to do in an emergency can save precious minutes in getting your Newf the care he or she needs.

Sources

<https://vetsoftherockies.com/education/how-to-treat-a-snake-bite-on-a-dog/>

<https://www.petassure.com/new-newsletters/insect-bites-on-dogs/>

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*Placing Your Newf on Your Own Continued from page 2*

A rescue uses an enforceable contract that allows them to get the dog back if things do not work out. As an owner, you have NO RECOURSE. Know that people pose as family units and once they get your dog, an unneutered or unspayed dog ends up in a puppy mill, or your dog may be used fighting ring.

Visit the home where you are thinking about placing your dog, even if spayed or neutered. Living on the end of a chain in a doghouse is not an optimal life. If your dog is a biter and you are not being honest, picture your dog biting someone's child and then getting beaten to death with a baseball bat by an angry parent. TNP has seen it happen. Take responsibility!

THINK and RESEARCH before placing your dog.

USE A RESPONSIBLE RESCUE!

*"TNP Alumni" Continued from page 3*

quickly took her back in. "She had been bounced around in bad situations," Paul said. "She was emaciated and covered in hot spots." Though she was never the same dog that they fostered, the Bourassa's provided her with a loving home for many years.

Rosie was also 3 years old when Paul and Paula adopted her about 9 years ago. A puppy mill mom, Paul and Paula were prepared for additional challenges than their prior Newfs. They were pleasantly surprised with Rosie's instant comfort in the family, describing her as "easy going." She passed away last summer at age 12.

Teddy was the Bourassa's first male, adopted at a year old about 6 years ago due to owner surrender. Paul calls Teddy a "great dog." He is a true comfort dog, seeking a couch or bed he can stretch out on.

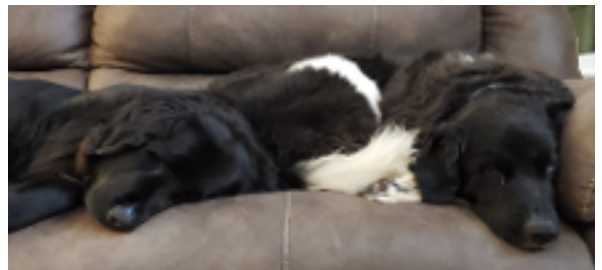


Paul & Paula with Stella

Stella is the latest addition to the family. Paul and Paula were in Knoxville, TN the summer of 2018 with plans to relocate there the following year, when Paul checked the TNP website and saw the

posting of mom Riley and her 9 puppies. They typically had 2 Newfs at any given time – and already had Rosie and Teddy – but Paul couldn't resist the puppies and approached Paula with the idea. "We were planning to move," Paula said. "I wasn't sure about adding a puppy." Yet, in August, Stella was on her way home with the Bourassa's and then moved to Knoxville the following June.

*Expert Excerpts Continued from page 3*  
for the affected joint. Acupuncture can be incorporated into a treatment plan for arthritis. Discuss pain management with your veterinarian. NSAIDS are a common go to for pain control but veterinarians have access to many classes of drugs to deal with arthritis pain and can help tailor a plan specific for your dog.



Teddy (l) & Stella (r)

Paul and Paula made sure their new home was very Newf friendly. The dogs have a one acre fenced in yard and their own room, with a rubber floor and 3 beds. They live near a large park with trails and paths, where they love to walk. They share the home with 3 cats and co-exist peacefully. The one-level home is perfect for humans and Newfs to age gracefully together.



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