

Newfie News



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November is Senior Pet Month

There is no denying that puppies are cute – especially Newfoundland puppies – which is one reason that they are highly desirable. When most people consider adding a dog to the family, they want a young dog, whether it be from a breeder or adopted. In fact, senior dogs have a 25% adoption rate, compared to a 60% adoption rate of younger dogs and puppies.

(<https://www.aspca.org/blog/four-reasons-open-your-mind-older-pets>)

Yet senior pets have so much to offer and can be a better choice for some families. That Newfoundland Place recognizes the value of older dogs and has made it their mission to offer quality of life to senior dogs of various breeds.

Lesley Osborn shares that vision. Lesley has shared the last four plus decades of her life caring for rescued adult, senior, and special needs dogs. Her passion is helping people save dogs from neglect, abuse, and abandonment. She is the principal at Lesley Osborn Canine Consulting, whose mission is educating people on how to adopt dogs and provide them with forever homes the first time. "I'm passionate about dogs being placed in the right homes as pets," Lesley said. "I firmly believe there is a right home for every dog."



Bubbles & Nike, senior greyhounds rescued by Lesley

Senior dogs hold a special place for Lesley. "Seniors are just gems," she said. "I don't care about scars. I don't care about their disabilities. I know in my heart they belong with me." Lesley has adopted numerous senior dogs, many who have required around the clock care. "A special bond develops in the care-taking of these dogs, she said." Lesley currently has three senior dogs, ages 10, 11, and 15

There are many reasons to consider a senior dog as your next pet.

They still have a lot of love to give

While the life span of giant breeds like Newfs is shorter than other dogs, they still have a lot of love to give at any age. And, no one can tell how long a dog will live. Many Newfs have

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Who's at TNP?



Maya & Cassie are beautiful Cane Corsos who have recently been spayed and are now looking for their forever home. They will be placed individually. These sweet girls are very good on a leash and are excellent with children. They would do best in a home with no other dogs. Traditional fencing is a huge plus. If you would love a giant dog and are open to a breed other than a Newf, reach out to TNP to learn more.

Onyx - is a three year old neutered male looking for a home due to his owner relocating. He will be groomed in early November to get ready for his adoption. There are some interested adopters for this sweet boy. Look for further updates via the TNP Facebook page and future newsletters.



Recently Adopted

Claudia Woods adopted **Kodie** on September 11. Kodie was brought to Claudia's West Newbury, MA home by his previous owners, who could no longer care for him due to family hardship. The adoption was facilitated by TNP.

Kodie is Claudia's 7th Newfoundland and her first from TNP. Claudia filled out an application about 2 years ago. She never expected to adopt a 10-year-old Newf. "None of my Newfies lived that long," Claudia said.

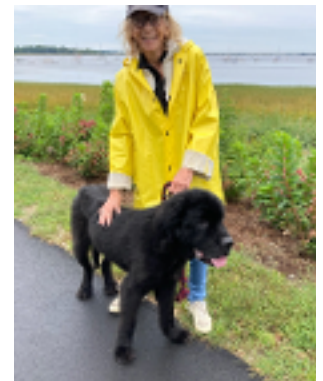


The adoption of Kodie came at a critical time for Claudia whose son passed away after a long illness while she was in the process of connecting with Kodie's previous owner. "I needed to shift my love and passion because of my son's passing," Claudia said.

Kodie joins an active household with a Jack Russell terrier, Hungarian Vizsla, mini horse, mini donkey and cat, all rescued. "I think Kodie's happy here," Claudia said. "He

seems to have attached to me in some wonderful way. There's something magical about a Newfoundland. I've had a lot of dogs and I don't think you'll find a more loving animal. It's really something special."

Despite being a senior dog with ailments – including daily vitamins and a torn ACL that has stabilized – Claudia is already enamored with Kodie. "I'm very happy with this old man," she said.



Kodie & Claudia

Interested in adopting from TNP?

All dogs are placed only in APPROVED homes. Email nancy@thatnewfoundlandplace.org for an application. Home checks are also required (virtual or in person). Keep in mind that TNP places dogs in homes that are in the best interest of the dog, but welcomes applicants to express interest in dogs through TNP Facebook posts.

Expert Excerpts

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

Dog Allergies (part 3 of 3)

Treating Allergies

Dogs are susceptible to allergies, just like humans. The three main types of allergies in dogs are flea bites, environmental, and food. Itching is the most common symptom in dog allergies. Intradermal skin testing, blood testing, and food trials are all common methods to try and diagnose allergies.

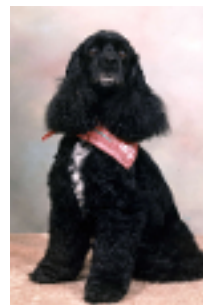
When your dog is diagnosed with allergies, then what? Avoidance of the allergen is ideal, but often impractical. Veterinarians can try and address the symptoms. There are many options to help control itching, and many hypoallergenic diets available for food allergic dogs. Some dogs can be managed with topical therapy only, including simply just frequent rinsing with distilled water to remove allergens from the coat. Oral omega-3 fatty acids help reduce the itch response and keep the coat and skin nourished. Some dogs do respond to antihistamines, but, unlike in people, histamines do not play a large role in allergic disease in dogs so we often do not see a great response. Prednisone and other steroids have frequently been used to control itching in dogs, but they may have many side effects, especially in long term use, so we try to avoid them. There are some newer products available to veterinarians that help control itch without the side effects, such as Apoquel and Cytopoint. Immunotherapy, or hyposensitization, benefits many dogs. The sooner immunotherapy is started, the more likely a patient will respond. Immunotherapy consists of giving the

TNP Alumni

For Beryl Ledoux, her passion for Newfoundlands was love at first sight.

Beryl has been in love with Newfoundlands since she was in the third grade. She grew up living next to a pond and one day, out of the water emerged a beautiful black dog that layed down on the front porch. Beryl discovered her name was Babe. It took a few days to find that owner and during that time Beryl lovingly cared for the dog. "From that day on I wanted a Newfoundland," she said.

After she was married, Beryl got a dog of her own, but it was a little smaller than she envisioned. She and husband Bob rescued a black Cocker Spaniel, which Bob referred to as a mini-Newf. They added a Rottweiler, but Beryl still longed for a Newfoundland.



"Mini-Newf"
Whitney

Eventually Beryl won out and began researching Newfoundland rescues, which led her to Cathy Derench, then with the Newfoundland Club of New England. Beryl and Bob went to an open house and filled out an application. They soon got a call about a male but she and Bob thought a female would be better suited to their needs so they declined. Just a week later they got a call about a year and a half old female from Maine. In November 2010 Beryl finally got her Newf – Nola. "She was my heart dog," Beryl said.



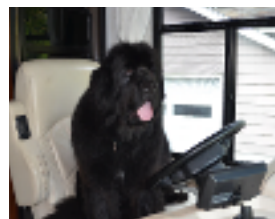
Nola tore her cruciate ligament a few months after joining the family. She had five surgeries and eventually became septic due to an infection. Nola was just three when she passed away in May 2011, and it devastated Beryl. The expense of Nola's medical bills was a strain (over \$20,000), and Bob said they could not afford another Newfoundland. Beryl cried for two months. Bob could not bear Beryl's sadness any longer and agreed to another Newf adoption.

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Beryl reached out to Cathy and in July 2011 the Ledoux's welcomed bonded father and daughter Dudley, 9, and Morgan, 7. Dudley passed away in late 2012 and the Ledoux's became failed fosters and adopted Moira, a 4-month-old puppy, from TNP in July 2013. In April 2014 they decided to sell their house in Massachusetts and travel the country in their motor home with Morgan and Moira. "The dogs loved traveling and were big hits



Dudley



Morgan behind the wheel

wherever we went," Beryl said. Morgan lived until fall of 2017. Moira continued to travel with them until they eventually settled in Kanab, Utah.

Beryl began volunteering at TNP while she was in Massachusetts, helping with vet check and other tasks. Being on the road did not diminish her giving spirit. Beryl embroidered all the jackets, shirts, and bandannas sold at the fundraiser and open houses.

In late 2017 Beryl began training Moira to be a service dog. "She took to it like a duck to water," Beryl said. Just months later, in 2018 Beryl spent nearly five months in the hospital. Moira was by her side, including in ICU. "She was there for me in a way I could never thank her for," Beryl said.



Beryl and Moira

Beryl was given a low chance of survival by the doctors and credits Moira with her recovery. Moira attended physical therapy with Beryl and helped her walk again after being bed ridden for weeks. Instead of using a walker for support, she used Moira in her harness. "If I told her to go left, she went left," Beryl said. "The physical therapists were amazed." Moira was also a comfort to Bob so he would not be alone at night.



Moira working on service at North Rim Grand Canyon

While Beryl was recovering in the hospital, Moira was concealing her own health trouble. She was very sick with lymphoma but never showed it. Moira passed away in November 2018 about three weeks after Beryl returned home from the hospital.

In February 2019 Beryl received a call from TNP about Little Man, an 18-month-old that did not get along well with other dogs in his previous home. She and Bob flew to Connecticut, rented a car, picked up Little Man, and within 24 hours drove across the country back to Utah.

Little Man has been the Ledoux's only Newf ever since. "He needs to be a solo," Beryl said. "He's perfect outside with other dogs but he isn't ready to share his people at home." Beryl is training Little Man in obedience, service harness, and what Beryl calls "slow motion agility." Beryl is limited to how fast she can move, so Little Man adapts to do the course at a slower pace. "It's about training and communication," Beryl said. The goal is for Little Man to accompany Beryl to doctor's offices and other public places.

Little Man has also proven to be a good companion to Bob and is well loved. "He goes hiking with Bob and other things that I can't do," Beryl said. "Then he does training with me even though we walk at a different pace."



Bob and Little Man take a break from hiking

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He switches from one to the other perfectly." Little Man is quite the celebrity at the local coffee shop and has his own following.

Beryl is thankful for all of her dogs adopted through TNP and the additional support she has received. "Cathy has helped me with dogs I met on the road," she said. "She never hesitated despite being so far away. She's always a source of information and I consider her my best friend."



Little Man enjoys some down time in the pool

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lived well past the life expectancy of 8 to 10 years and enjoyed good health. They can undoubtedly bring you much joy, no matter how long they are part of your family.

Older dogs require less time and supervision

Yes, puppies are adorable, but also A LOT of work. Between housebreaking, teething, and training, it takes many hours to devote to a puppy to see them to adulthood. Once the puppy finally outgrows the puppy stage, the "teenage" years of 2-3 can be every bit as exhausting as these energetic dogs get into everything. Senior dogs are calmer and more settled.

Old dogs can learn new tricks

Most senior dogs know basic commands of sit, down, and stay. But, if the older dog didn't happen to learn basic commands at a younger age, it is not too late. Dogs can be trained at any age, and may be easier to train because they have a greater attention span than a puppy.

Senior dogs are more laid back

Older dogs are generally more mellow and less active, which can fit in well with your own lifestyle. Of course, senior dogs still require exercise, but their activity level will be much lower than a younger dog. They are content taking it easy, and spending more time relaxing. They are often happy to nap during the day or spend quite time by your side, which can be ideal for several types of families from busy professionals to retirees.



Levi & Andy. Rescued by Lesley

Chewing days are behind them

Training puppies not only takes a toll on owners, but on the house as well. Accidents happen on carpets and floors and furniture may get chewed. Older dogs are more likely to be housebroken and are past that teething stage that leads to so much chewing.

What you see is what you get

One reason that Newfoundland dogs are surrendered is because owners are not prepared for their size. Even among Newfoundlands, the range can be between 90 and 175 pounds. Senior dogs have reached maturity and will not get any bigger. Plus, their personalities are fully developed. You'll know exactly what you are getting into and the needs for the dog.

Senior dogs are resilient

Whether they have come from a loving family or a neglectful/abusive situation, senior dogs are resilient and will become loyal to you and your family (just be sure to give it a little time).

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You can literally save a life

Dogs are surrendered through no fault of their own. For senior dogs, the situation is often bleak with longer shelter stays and higher risk of euthanasia. By giving a senior dog a new home, you can save a life and be on the receiving end of love and companionship.

Things to Consider Before Adopting a Senior Dog

Of course, there are some challenges to adopting older dogs, just as there are with dogs of any age. Do your research before adding any pet to your family.

Less time together

A common concern of adopting an older dog is that they won't be in your life as long as a younger dog. While this may be true, their love and loyalty during that time is not diminished. In fact, you may value each day spent with your senior dog more, being mindful of your time together.



l to r: Gala, 10, Lobito, 11, Lola, 15, and Cours, 13. Rescued by Lesley

Health Problems

As humans and dogs age, health problems are more likely to surface. From cancer to arthritis to incontinence, senior dog owners should be prepared to manage those issues, which can involve medication, regular vet visits, and tests. Increased medication and vet visits will also mean increased costs, especially for Newfs. Consider the financial responsibility before adopting an older dog.

Vision and hearing loss can also occur as dogs age, which may cause them to be more reactive around active children and pets if they are startled. Pay attention to the signals - a tail tuck, ears going down, or a drooping head. Get the dog tested if you think there may be problems.

Mobility Challenges

Many dogs have difficulty getting up or moving around as they age. Consider how you will manage a Newf that needs assistance. While the sheer weight of the dog can be a challenge, there are products that can help such as harnesses and ramps.

Senior dogs deserve to live their final years in a loving home that's safe and secure. Despite the potential challenges, senior dogs are a source of companionship and loyalty to their owners, and the love they give is immeasurable. "There's nothing better than to hug your hound (the general term Lesley uses for any dog)," Lesley said. "They are such a support."

Contact Lesley: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/lesley-osborn-canine-consulting-llc/>

Sources/more information:

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GIVING TUESDAY

"Expert Excerpts" Continued from page 3

That Newfoundland Place will be participating in Giving Tuesday on November 30, a day that celebrates generosity and kindness. With the cancellation of TNP's largest fundraiser - the Rescue Reunion and Fund Raiser - for the second year in a row, revenue from Giving Tuesday is critical in continuing the rescue work of TNP. Watch out for announcements on the TNP Facebook page.

Giving Tuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Giving Tuesday is a movement that unleashes the power of radical generosity, the concept that the suffering of others should be as intolerable to us as our own suffering. Their goal is inspire generosity around the world and build a world where generosity is part of everyday life.

While most people use Giving Tuesday as an opportunity to donate to non-profits as a way to counteract the commercialism surrounding the holiday season, the creators envision a year round campaign that promotes generosity in a variety of ways by celebrating all acts of giving.

<https://www.givingtuesday.org/>

dog small doses of the substance they are allergic to to trick their immune system into recognizing it is "normal." Previously this was done by injections, either administered by a veterinarian or yourself at home, but many companies have developed oral drops that are just as effective. There are also highly effective flea control products available, and they should be continued year round.

Unfortunately, there is no cure for allergies. Most dogs continue to suffer from the symptoms of allergies their entire life, and some progressively get worse year after year. If your dog has been diagnosed with allergies, prepare for this to be a lifelong commitment. Work closely with your veterinarian to help alleviate the symptoms and find ways to keep your dog comfortable. Veterinarians do recognize your frustration, many of us also have dogs with allergies. Our goal is to help you keep your dog as comfortable as possible using a multi-modal approach, from flea control, immunotherapy, topical and oral medication, and diet

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