

# Newfie News



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## Understanding Why Dogs Chew Wood - and Solutions

Anyone who has owned a puppy has likely discovered the half-chewed shoe or the stuffing peaking out of the arm of the sofa with tiny teeth marks in the fabric. Chewing is a natural instinct for puppies, just as it is for their human counterparts. At four to 30 weeks, puppies' teeth start to grow rapidly, which can cause some discomfort. Chewing alleviates some of the pain from teething. It is also a way for puppies and babies to explore various items through texture and taste. Along with smell, it a powerful tool for discovery for canines.

Dogs tend to outgrow the teething period by 18 months of age, but it could last a bit longer, depending on the specific dog. It is important to provide puppies with *appropriate* chew toys during that time so they are gnawing on a rope toy or plastic ball instead of your most comfortable pair of shoes.

You may find, however, that your adult dog continues to chomp on items other than his toys, particularly wood. Many dogs enjoy munching on sticks in the yard and that can translate into nibbling on baseboards and furniture legs in the house. This can be dangerous as splinters from wood can get caught in the mouth or esophagus, tear the intestines or stomach lining, or obstruct the bowels. Additionally, some kinds of wood are toxic, including black walnut, black cherry, yew, and white cedar.

Understanding the cause of wood chewing can help you break your Newf of this behavior.

### Boredom

Chewing is a common result of boredom in dogs. If left for long periods of time to find their own entertainment, your Newf may do just that – in the form of making a snack out of the end table, especially if you've played fetch in the yard with sticks. He likely can't differentiate between the branches in the yard and the leg of the coffee table. And, the texture of wood may be attractive, being firm but with enough "give" for a satisfying nibble.

### Anxiety

Dog anxiety manifests in several symptoms, including chewing wood and other items. Many things can trigger anxiety, from a particular smell, sound or sight that reminds your dog of a stressful situation, changes in the household such as a new work schedule or more or

*Continued on page 5*

## What's Inside

Who's at TNP? Available  
Dogs Update **Page 2**

Recently Adopted  
**Page 2 & 3**

Expert Excerpts  
**Page 4**

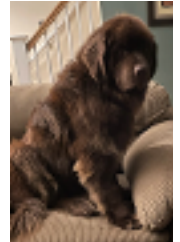
TNP Alumni  
**Page 4**

## Who's at TNP?



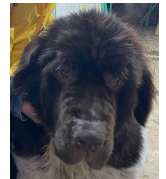
**Samson** arrived at TNP in November and tested positive for heart worm. He is currently in foster care where he just finished his heartworm treatment. He will be neutered in early February and then will return to TNP to get a dislocated hip repaired - the result of being hit by a car - and then to recover. Sam has an adoptive home waiting for him in NY.

**Clifford** is in a foster-to-adopt home in CT, with Keith Bliska. This young Newf arrived at TNP in December with serious orthopedic concerns in his hind legs after being picked up as a stray in NY. The issues are currently under review by TNP and a specialist to determine how to proceed. For now, Clifford is doing great with Keith. "It's been an easy adjustment," Keith said, who picked up Clifford from TNP on New Year's Day. Keith reports the neighborhood has been very welcoming and the only challenges have been puppy proofing the home and Clifford's aversion to staircases. Clifford loves car rides and "he's playing and running well," Keith said. "He's happy and very social." Clifford is the only pet and enjoys Keith's undivided attention.



**Stella** the English Black Lab arrived at TNP with Mabel the Newf in December from NY due to family hardship. This 2 1/2 girl is in foster care in CT awaiting spay surgery. Once healed, She will be off to her adoptive home, also in CT.

**Brittany** is a 5 year old brown and white sweet girl who arrived at TNP on January 27. She has a couple of skin issues and is awaiting for spay date. Watch for details.



## Recently Adopted



**Pharoah**, now Max, found a home with Judy and Craig Clark of Rindge, NH at the end of December. Max joined 10-year-old Newfoundland Ladybug (Bug), also a TNP alum, that the Clarks adopted eight years ago.

Max is adjusting well. Having just turned one year old on January 20, Max is still learning when it comes to general manners. "He's got basic training down but still needs a lot of work (on meeting people)," Judy said. "He's the youngest dog we've ever adopted," Craig said.

Judy enjoys dog training. "Every dog we've had teaches me about training," she said. "One of the Bouviers was deaf so I taught her hand signals." That training will continue with Max.

The Clarks are longtime enthusiasts of large breed dogs. They've adopted 12 dogs in over 50 years of being together: three Old English Sheepdogs, three Bouvier des Flandres, four Newfoundlands, one Greyhound, and now one Airedale. All of their Newfoundlands were rescued directly or indirectly from TNP (and previously The Newfoundland Club of New England) since the 1990s. "It's been a mission of ours to rescue," Craig said.

Judy is an artist and has fashioned yarn out of the fur of the Old English Sheepdogs, Bouviers, and Newfs to create art and knitted creations. It's a lasting memorial to her dogs.

The Clarks are pleased that Max is part of the family. "We had been looking for a new dog for a while," Craig said. "So we decided to give Max a try."



Bug & Max

## Recently Adopted



**Izzy** was adopted by her foster parents, Mary & Mike Begs. In January, Izzy had an appointment with an orthopedic specialist for her luxating patellas. The doctor was not able to detect a problem in the right leg, and determined the left leg to be a Grade 1, which is an improvement for Izzy. For now, no surgery is needed as the knee may correct itself with proper nutrition and exercise. Izzy has a follow up appointment in April.

The Begs have four Border Collie and one Australian Shepherd - all rescues - and love having another Newfie. Izzy is their 4th- and their first rescued Newf. They weren't looking to adopt but couldn't resist. "She's an absolute joy," Mary said. Izzy started puppy classes last week.

As with any healthy puppy, Izzy likes to run and play. She has plenty of room to explore the nine acres that encompass the Begs' small farm in upstate New York.

The Begs are an experienced foster family. Counting Izzy, they have fostered 28 dogs. Of those, they have adopted only four. Izzy, who was 5 months on February 9, was special from the start. "I've never encountered another Newf with a personality like her," Mary said. "She's outgoing, wants to thrive, and just go."



Izzy is part of her "herding" pack



Lilli & Steve

**Lilli** is keeping her new family in Granby, CT active. She went home with Steve and Rita McConaughy and her 8-year-old Leonberger sister Maggie on January 16.

Steve said that Lilli is "still settling in, but is doing great." She and Maggie got along well from the start, even if they do "pretty much ignore each other," as Steve reports.

At just 10 months old, Lilli has boundless energy. She enjoys chasing the blowing leaves and running about the fenced yard. She has made a friend in the Golden Retriever neighbor, who has a similar activity level. Steve plans on setting up a few play dates a week between the two. Maggie prefers to watch Lilli play instead of joining in, clearly exercising her big sister rights. The two do like to go on walks together.

Steve and Rita have had 4 or 5 Newfoundlands since the 1980s. Steve trained the dogs to do search and rescue work and was active in Virginia, Maryland, and Washington. DC. He even worked on international FEMA teams and went to Turkey with one of his Newfs. Steve is active in Leonberger rescue and Maggie is his third. He and Rita have also had a Golden Retriever and a German Shepherd that Steve used in rescue work.

Lilli won't be used for rescue work but Steve will keep her active. He enjoys training dogs and plans on bringing Lilli canoeing, hiking, camping, and on ski trips. Lilli already loves the snow. At home, it's Lilli who keeps Steve active. "She likes toys. Right now, her favorites are balls, ropes with knots and felt covered Kong bones," he said. "I work remotely and she's forcing me away from the keyboard every two hours to play with her. She's a happy dog."

**Mabel**, age 3, arrived at TNP in December with Stella the English Black Lab. She was spayed and went to her new home with Jeff and Renee Morano in NY on January 29. Watch for updates on the TNP Facebook page and future newsletters.





## Expert Excerpts

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

### February is Spay/Neuter Awareness Month

In honor of spay and neuter awareness month we will discuss two procedures very commonly performed by veterinarians, the spay, which is the term for the "sterilization" surgery in a female dog, and the neuter, which is the term for the surgery in a male dog.

Both procedures require general anesthesia and likely at least a day's stay in the hospital. Most dogs experience some anesthetic weakness for the first day after surgery and may be a little sleepy, but the vast majority by day two are feeling good enough to resume normal activity. We need to keep their activity restricted for at least a week to allow for proper healing and reduce the risk of complications. Too much activity increases the risk of swelling and bruising at the surgery site and the concern for the incision opening up.

In the female dog an abdominal incision is made and the ovaries and uterus are removed. Most commonly it is performed to prevent pregnancies, but spaying a female dog also reduces her risk of mammary cancer later in life and also eliminates the concern for pyometra, which is a fairly common uterine infection in dogs. Pyometra often requires emergency surgery. There is some evidence that an ovary sparing spay, a procedure where the ovaries are not removed but the uterus is, may have some health benefits to the female dog. With this procedure the dog will still continue to have heat cycles so she receives the benefits of hormones that otherwise would no longer be present in

*Continued on page 7*

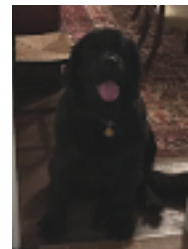
## TNP Alumni

*By Martha Zuther*

When the policeman stopped in front of her house, Barbara Barry of Coventry, CT wondered what had warranted his visit. She approached the policeman and he assured her, he simply wanted to say hello to the two gentle giants playing in her yard! The policeman explained that he had just adopted a rescue Newfoundland from a woman named Cathy Derench at That Newfoundland Place. It was destiny; from that point forward, all of Barbara's Newfs came from TNP.

Since their original meeting ages ago, Barbara has become an avid supporter of TNP. "It's nice to be able to call Cathy when you have a problem... her whole life is her dogs," Barbara explains. Barbara advocates for the organization at the Coventry Market, which hosts a table once a year for people to get to know the Newfoundland dog. Throughout the year, she also uses the market to direct Newfoundland owners to the organization and help spread the word about what they do. "Cathy does a marvelous job in matching a dog with a family. It's always a perfect match."

Barbara adopted her current dog, Mabel, in 2019 from TNP and, not surprising, it has been a perfect match. "We aren't sure but I think she was around six," Barbara said. "She was from a puppy mill." When Barbara brought her home, her other Newfoundland, Charlie, welcomed Mabel into the pack. "It's easier with two dogs than with one, Barbara said. "He introduced Mabel how to do the routine in the house. They ate and played together, and kept their distance when they wanted to. It's always nice to have a dog in the house when a new one comes in because it's the teacher."



Mabel



Charlie & Mabel

This isn't the first time Barbara has enjoyed more than one Newf in her home. When she selected her first Newfoundland puppy from a local breeder, she

*Continued on page 7*

*Understanding Why Dogs Chew Wood continued from page 1*

fewer family members, or moving to a new house. Chewing can alleviate some of the stress your dog is feeling. You may need to do some detective work to determine the cause of the anxiety to help your Newf through it. Severe anxiety may require vet intervention and additional training.

### **Dental problems**

Pain from adult teeth can also lead to your dog gnawing on wood, and increased chewing in general. Check your Newf's mouth for any signs of broken teeth, bleeding, or swelling. If your Newf's chewing just won't subside, an exam by your veterinarian or x-rays to check beneath the gumline for problems may provide some answers.

### **Pica**

Dogs can also chew because of Pica, a condition where animals (and people) eat non-food items or harmful objects. Pica can be caused by poor diet or intestinal parasite. If your Newf is constantly munching on and swallowing wood or other harmful things, talk to your vet.

### **It's in the breed**

Some breeds have a stronger chewing instinct than others, such as retrievers and hunting dogs. They are bred to use their mouths to carry objects. Newfoundlands are not considered a breed predisposed to chewing, but of course not every dog falls one hundred percent into the breed standard.



©petfinder/Zoonar RF

### **Saving your furniture**

Prevention is the best way to keep the wood in your house free from teeth marks and keep your Newf safe from the dangers of eating wood.

Avoid using sticks for play items. There are hundreds of dog toys available on the market and some sturdy enough for the mouth of a Newfie. Food dispensing chew toys like the Kong Classic are made of durable rubber and, when stuffed with peanut butter or other soft treat, will likely hold your Newf's attention longer as she tries to extract the treat. Edible chews are another option. They won't last as long as quality toys but the wow factor will be increased for your dog. As a bonus, chews help clean teeth and gums.

While you're introducing appropriate chewing toys, be sure to supervise your Newf. Anytime the mouth reaches for something that shouldn't be chewed, redirect his attention. Add positive reinforcement and praise when your Newf does choose the appropriate toy to increase the chance she will continue to make the same choice in the future. You may need to use a crate or safe area when you aren't able to supervise, providing appropriate chews to keep your Newf active and stimulated.

### **Dog chewing deterrents**



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Bitter apple spray or a homemade solution of vinegar and apple cider vinegar on baseboards and furniture may help deter your Newf from making a meal out of the wood in your home. Spray the items every day for at least three or four weeks. During the same time, provide healthier alternative and behavior training to establish new habits.

### **Provide lots of exercise and play**

Exercise and mental stimulation will go a long way in reducing chewing in your Newf if it is

*continued on page 6*

*Understanding Why Dogs Chew Wood continued from page 5*

caused by boredom or anxiety. Dogs are a very sociable animals and need to interact with humans and other animals. Play with your Newf often and provide walks and other exercise. If you need to spend large chunks of time away from home, consider a pet sitter or doggie day care to keep your Newf active. Tired dogs are less likely to engage in chewing activities to combat boredom.

Chewing is an important behavior in the health of dogs as it cleans their teeth and exercises their jaws. For your Newf, it is a fun activity to amuse themselves. Keeping your dog engaged, active, well fed with nutritious food, and stocked with appropriate chew toys will keep unwanted chewing to a minimum. If your Newf does begin to use your furniture as a chew toy, understand the cause to prevent the behavior, offer a distraction with a healthy alternative, and provide consistent behavior training. You will save your house and provide a much happier environment for you and your Newf.

Sources/More information:

<https://www.newfoundlandpuppy.org/puppychew.html>

<https://www.pawmaw.com/blog/why-dogs-chew-on-wood>

<https://wagwalking.com/behavior/why-do-dogs-chew-on-wood>

<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/advice/why-does-my-dog-chew-my-furniture-and-baseboards/>

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## Protect Your Newf for Fun in the Snow and Cold

Most Newfs thrive in the colder temps of winter and count playing in the snow as one of their favorite activities. They are truly made for winter. But that doesn't mean that Newf owners can let down their guard. The Animal Rescue League of Boston shared these tips for safe play in snowy and cold conditions.



**Prepare your Newf for the elements**– A Newfoundland's double coat is made to keep them warm in frigid conditions. Make sure the coat is at full length to protect them. If your Newf's coat is compromised or if you have a dog with shorter fur, keep him warm with a coat or a sweater. Just like you, your pup will enjoy the outdoors much more if he isn't shivering.

**Keep your Newf on a leash**- Dogs can easily lose their scent in the snow, so letting her off-leash during a snowstorm, or when there's ice or snow on the ground isn't a good idea. If you're walking near any type of water - pond, lake, etc. - remember that ice may not be safe, especially for a Newf (that's over a hundred pounds). A fun day could turn to tragedy if she falls through into the icy water.

**Wipe off your Newf's paws and stomach**– Streets and sidewalks can be treated with rock salt, antifreeze, and other dangerous chemicals. All of these can irritate your dog's paws, and can be poisonous if ingested. Keep wipes (unscented baby wipes work well) by the door to clean off your dog's paws and stomach before he licks them first.

**Never leave your Newf alone in a car**– Just as a car can quickly heat up in the summer, the temperature can plummet in the winter when the engine is turned off. And while your Newf likely has more cold-weather protection than other dogs, it's safer to bring her inside with you or leave her home.

**Pay attention to your Newf's protein**- If your dog spends a lot of time playing outdoors, he's going to need extra protein in his diet for that energy. Protein also helps maintain a healthy coat to protect him from the cold.

For more winter weather safety tips, visit <https://www.arlboston.org/winter-pet-health/>

*"TNP Alumni" Continued from page 4*

planned to bring home one ball of fluff. Instead, the breeder convinced her to take two pups. "We were scheduled to get just one, but the breeder didn't like the people who were taking it, so for a few extra dollars we had two!" Barbara said.

Barbara was first introduced to the breed as a child. Her grandfather, a "gentleman farmer," had a Newfoundland she loved to visit each summer. "When I was a little girl, sixty five years ago, I lived where I'm living now, and it was a farm. The dog was a Newfoundland named Sambo." Barbara loved the dog, and while she also has experience with Saint Bernards and English Sheepdogs, she is now a Newf owner for life. "I wouldn't have any other dog," she said. "It's a gentle giant, affectionate, and meets new people easily." Over her lifetime, she has treasured eight Newfs: Sambo, Hellman, Maizie, Indy, Belle, Shadow, Charlie and Mabel.

Luckily, Barbara has a strong connection with That Newfoundland Place, through which she already has adopted five dogs. Barbara plans to be a supporter of TNP forever. She chuckles, "One of my first loves is That Newfoundland Place. I've made arrangements so that when I 'step out' they'll get some cash... I thought, 'I'm going to leave it to That Newfoundland Place.' I truly believe in what they're doing."



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*"Expert Excerpts" Continued from page 4*

her body but because she has no uterus, she cannot get pregnant. There are some potential serious considerations before pursuing this procedure so please consult your veterinarian before considering an ovary sparing spay.

*Next month: Neuter surgery and risks and benefits of spaying and neutering your dog.*

## Save the Date for 2022 TNP Events

After nearly a two year absence of events TNP has announced their tentative schedule for 2022.

### Open Houses

*Sunday, April 24*

*Sunday, June 12*

*Sunday, August 21*

Open houses are meet and greets only, a chance to learn more about the dogs available for adoption through TNP, meet TNP alumni, and learn more about the Newfoundland breed.

### Annual Reunion and Fundraiser

*Sunday, October 9*

All events are open to the public, will be held outside, and are subject to Covid protocols.

Watch for updates on the TNP Facebook page and in future newsletters.

### Shop at AmazonSmile

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