

Newfie News



April 2022

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Helping Your Newf Heal from Grief

If you have experienced love from your Newf (and nearly all Newf owners have), you are likely not surprised that your canine companion experiences other emotions, including grief.

Dogs experience loss just like humans do. They will likely be impacted when another pet in the home has passed away - particularly another dog that was a playmate - or the death of human caretaker. Even long term separation can have an impact, such as an adult child that moves away. Dogs may also pick up on grief experienced by family members.

All dogs react differently to loss and you may not notice any change; however, some dogs will show signs of deep depression. Grief manifests in behavioral or physical changes. The level of grief the dog is feeling - and subsequent behaviors - is associated with the strength of the bond your dog shared with the animal or person that passed away.



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First TNP Open House in Two Years Scheduled for Sunday, April 24

In person events are back after a two year hiatus due to COVID-19. The first Open House of the season will take place on **Sunday, April 24**. Open Houses are also scheduled for *Sunday, June 12* and *Sunday, August 21*. All open houses are from Noon to 3 pm at 554 Pucker Street, Coventry, CT. Pizza and soft drinks will be served.

Open houses are meet and greets only, no dogs are adopted at this time. It's a great chance to meet TNP staff and alumni, learn more about the Newfoundland breed, and visit with the dogs available for adoption.

And mark your calendar for **Sunday, October 9 for the Annual Reunion and Fundraiser**.

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.

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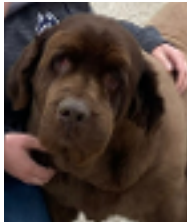
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Who's at TNP?

Samson has recovered from his heartworm infection and neuter surgery and will have updated x-rays and surgery on April 4 for a dislocated hip as the result of being hit by a car several months ago, prior to arriving at TNP. Samson will then rehab at TNP before going to his adoptive home in NY.



Mocha has been at TNP since February due to family hardship. This sweet 8-year-old girl had a large growth in her mouth - 2.5 by 3 inches - that was biopsied and declared benign. She had surgery on March 21 to remove the growth - and a smaller one behind - and repair her top eyelid and is recovering well. These surgeries will give Mocha the opportunity to live a comfortable life for her veteran years. Mocha is a very sweet senior, happy strolling around, using the ramp, and loves treats (soft ones for now as her mouth heals). She will be monitored for tumor re-growths. Once healed, TNP will secure the optimal home for Mocha.

Baxter arrived at TNP In February due to family hardship. This 8-year-old sweet boy is healthy and recovering from his neuter surgery on March 21 and is loving the attention he's getting. Baxter will be going to his new home in early April. Watch the TNP Facebook page and future newsletter for updates.



On March 10, **Julia**, a fifteen-month-old brown and white Landseer arrived at TNP from NY due to family hardship. Julia was vetted and her spay surgery is scheduled for April 19 - after recently giving birth to 10 puppies. After recovery, she will be headed to the perfect home.

Two-year-old **Sully** arrived at TNP on March 16 due to family hardship with torn bilateral ACLs. Sully can't walk. A trip to the vet to determine what was needed to allow Sully to live a normal and full life indicated he will need surgery on each leg and then extensive rehabilitation. One leg will be done in April 13, then Sully will need wait two months for the

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Can you help TNP with Surgery Expenses for Sully and other Newfs?

TNP has been inundated with Newfs needing medical care since the beginning of the year. No dog is turned away by TNP because of health issues. Most recently, Sully arrived in need of bilateral ACL surgery. The surgery estimates for each leg ranges from \$7,800 to \$8,100, even with a Rescue discount, which the vet clinic has generously given. Other expenses include heartworm treatments, eye issues, oral tumors, and FHO surgery to repair a dislocated hip. This is on top of normal spays and neuters.

Donations of any amount are welcome and much appreciated. Donations can be made through the fundraiser on the TNP Facebook page, or via PayPal or credit card on the TNP website: <https://thatnewfoundlandplace.org/>

Checks can be mailed to:

That Newfoundland Place, 554 Pucker St, Coventry, CT 06238

Thank you for your generous support

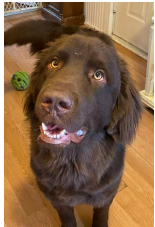
Click to DONATE TO TNP



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Who's at TNP?

second surgery on the other leg. The entire process will take an estimated six months. This young boy is being fostered by Heidi, a vet tech, in Long Island. Watch for updates about Sully on the TNP Facebook page and future newsletters.

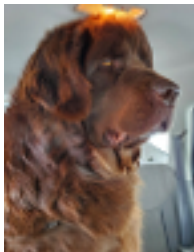


One-year-old **Hagrid** arrived at TNP on March 18 because he did not get along with the other males in the home. He's healed from neuter surgery and is learning to use a leader for controlled walks. Hagrid is great with people, but needs additional training. like any 1-year-old. He would do best as the only dog in the home and due to his energy level, a home with older children.

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.

Recently Adopted



Mabel went to her new home in Fairpoint, NY (just outside Rochester) with Renee and Jeff Morano on January 29. "She's a doll," Renee reports. "She's adjusted very well. She's very well behaved, loves walks, grooming, and sitting in snow banks." The Moranos are empty nesters, but their three children live nearby. They also love Mabel.

Three-year-old Mabel is the Morano's second Newf and first rescue. Reba passed in 2005. "For Jeff it was a Newf or nothing," Renee said. They wanted an older Newf so Renee researched rescues on the internet. "I like the way TNP makes decisions on where the dogs go," Renee said.

Mabel is the only pet in the home and is soaking up all the attention. She loves to be petted and dictates how she gets her loving. "She likes to have her tail end petted instead of her head sometimes," Renee said. Mabel is already deeply entrenched in the Morano's heart. "She's a sweetheart."

Brittany arrived at TNP on January 27 and was adopted by Diane Provost on March 10 after recovering from spay surgery and being treated for parasites. Watch for updates on five-year-old Brittany on the TNP Facebook page and future newsletters.



Elvira, now Elsie, was spayed on March 11 and went home with her new family, Shawn and Lucie, on March 29. Watch the TNP Facebook page and future issues of the newsletter for more information on this 3-year-old girl.



Expert Excerpts

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

April is Heartworm Awareness Month

In recognition of National Heartworm Awareness month, this month's topic will be heartworm disease.

Heartworm is a parasite spread by mosquito bites that affects all canine species, wild and domestic. It can occasionally affect cats and rarely even humans. The adult heartworm live in the large pulmonary arteries of the host, while the immature stages (larva) circulate in the blood. If a mosquito takes a blood meal from an infected dog it will consume some of the larva that are circulating in the blood. The larva then go through life stages within the mosquito to become infective. Once they reach this stage, when the mosquito takes its next meal, the infective larva are injected into the new host, where they migrate and eventually end up as adult heartworm residing in the host's pulmonary arteries. A blood sample is required to test a patient for heartworm.

In early stages infected dogs do not show any symptoms. As the disease progresses symptoms include cough, shortness of breath, and exercise intolerance. Eventually the dog will go into right sided heart failure. These dogs usually have all of the above symptoms along with weight loss and ascites (accumulation of fluid in the abdomen). Most of the symptoms are the result of the pulmonary hypertension caused by inflammation of the pulmonary vessels secondary to the heartworm. The right side of the heart pumps blood through the pulmonary vessels. If the pressure is elevated in the pulmonary vasculature

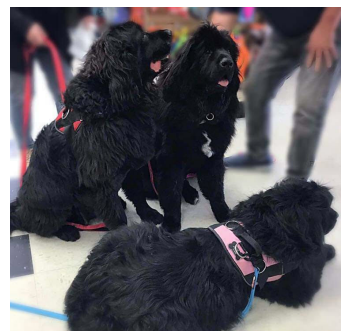
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TNP Alumni

By Martha Zuther

For Cathie and Tom Witkowski of Terryville, CT, vacations must include one very specific feature: dog-friendly lodging.

Cathie and Tom currently have three Newfoundland dogs from That Newfoundland Place, and their dogs go with them on all of their trips. "My male, Monty (3 years), he's the biggest baby of them all." Cathie said. "He wants to be with you all the time... such a love. Jetta (8 years) is probably the leader of the pack. She's the 'mother' of everybody. Then there's Kashmir (9 years). When I first got her, my heart broke for her. She was almost five and she lived in a cage her whole life. Everything bothered her; she was scared of everything."



l to r: Jetta, Monty,
Kashmir (laying)

Boarding these rescued animals isn't an option for the Witkowskis, who insist on bringing their dogs on all of their trips. Cathie, who doesn't have any two-legged children, explained, "They're a beautiful breed. They are my children. Our vacations are around 'Where can we take them?'"

To that end, these lucky Newfs are some well-traveled animals. Cathie and Tom have taken them to destinations across New England and beyond, including *Good Dog Vacations* in Sciota, PA, *The Cottage Place* on Squam Lake in NH, *The Paws Inn* in West Rutland, VT, and a rental house on a beach in Rhode Island. "All of our vacations are at dog-friendly places," Cathie laughed. "It has to be dog-friendly."

As for the Newfs, they adore the trips and are wonderful travel companions. "Once we took them to Block Island on the boat; they were terrific." Since they travel so well, Cathie and Tom make it a point to find locations that the dogs will enjoy. "We also took them for a ride up to

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Symptoms of Grief

Behavioral changes can include increased barking/crying/howling or you may notice your Newf has become quieter or withdrawn, increased sleeping and in unusual places, inappropriate elimination, increased clinginess, or hiding. You may notice that your dog appears to be “looking” for the lost pet or human around the house. If there are multiple dogs in the home and the pack leader passes away you will likely notice another dog assumes this role and becomes more outgoing. Physical changes can also occur when a dog is grieving. Lethargy, loss of appetite, aggression or destructive behavior, and even illness are common symptoms.

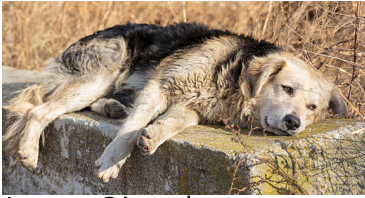


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These symptoms are a normal part of your Newf’s grieving process and shouldn’t be punished. Rather, gently discourage or redirect unwanted behaviors. Be sure to show lots of love and praise when appropriate. It’s important to note that these symptoms can result from health issues as well, so it’s important to consult with your veterinarian to determine the root of these symptoms.

Scientific Proof of Grief

While there is some debate over the scientific theories of whether or not animals grieve, the behaviors associated with the loss are concrete. Some scientists attribute the change in behavior due to the change in schedule that accompany the loss of a caregiver or another pet. However, recent research indicates that dogs are indeed grieving. Studies that assessed different behavior patterns found that 66% - 90% of dogs experienced grief-related behavioral changes after the loss of another dog in the family.



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Barbara J. King is professor emerita of anthropology at The College of William & Mary and author of 7 books, including *How Animals Grieve*, in which she provides numerous stories of many species of animals, both wild and domesticated, mourning the loss of family, friends, or companions, including cross-species such as dogs and humans. "We can't understand how an animal understands or thinks about death," she writes. "We can only evaluate what we can see, and when someone in a dog's life dies, dogs will react with behavioral changes."

In an April 2019 TedTalk on the topic, King further explained, "I believe that grief is the right word to use for numerous animals who mourn the dead. These behavioral cues tell us something about an animal's emotional state." King's notes that her theory is based on love. "Animals can care very deeply for each other. And when they do, a survivor's heart can be pierced by a death." She also explains that grief comes when there is a one to one close relationship between animals, and that circumstance and personality matters.

Regardless of whether it is scientifically proven that your Newf is experiencing grief, we humans want to help them through the loss they are feeling.

Helping your dog cope with grief

Just as there are ways humans can cope with the loss of a pet, there are things you can do to help your dog during this sad time. Even if he shows no outward symptoms, he may be feeling stressed due to the changes in the household. First, recognize that your Newf is

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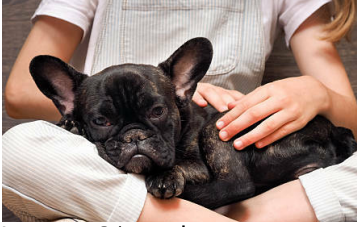


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grieving and that it is a natural process. Try to be reassuring – show and tell your Newf that things will be okay. Even if she doesn't understand the words, a soft tone will reassure her.

Sticking with routine will help you and your Newf cope with grief. Feedings and walk time should continue at the same time. Make sure he is getting proper nutrition, especially during this time.

Increased exercise and stimulation can fill the void left by a playmate that passed away. Increase social interactions with other dogs and humans (if that is something your dog enjoys). Extra time outside on walks or hikes may help reduce the stress you are both feeling. Provide your Newf with plenty of toys, play games of fetch or tug-of-war, or work on training. Most important, just spend extra time cuddling, talking to your dog, and bonding. It will provide both of you with some healing. It's okay for your Newf to have some alone time too. Don't try to schedule every minute of their day. But, if you need to leave your dog for long periods during the day, ask a friend or pet sitter to check in and spend some time with him.

Similar to humans, the length of the grieving process varies, however, if your dog has been exhibiting behaviors associated with grief for several months, consult your veterinarian.

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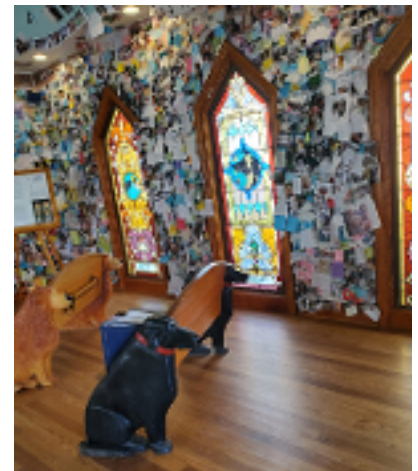
Mount Washington in New Hampshire. We try real hard to get them out. We took them to a great waterfall in Pennsylvania, then walked around a little bit on the trail up there. It's great to bring them because they are so well-behaved."



Dog Mountain

A favorite location of the Witkowskis and their dogs was *Dog Mountain* in St. Johnsbury, VT. "It's one hundred and fifty acres that a gentleman owns. It has a chapel where you can bring a photo of your deceased animal," Cathie described. On their website, Dog Mountain specifies, "The grounds are always open to people and their dogs. This unspoiled haven is covered with hiking trails and dog ponds. Dogs are not just welcome here, they are cherished!"

Cherishing their dogs comes easily to the Witkowskis. Cathie describes her love for Newfoundlands as deep-rooted. "I've



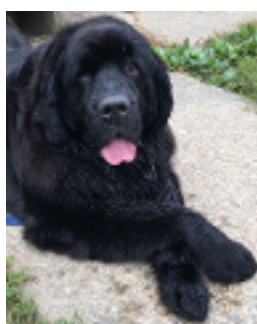
Dog Mountain chapel with photos and memorials on walls
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always loved Newfs," she said. "We always had dogs, I grew up with dogs, and I had seen a picture and thought, 'How beautiful!'" While they've had other dog breeds in their home, Cathie and Tom have spent the last few



Kashmir & Monty



Jetta

decades owning Newfoundlands: a total of seven of the gentle giants. "We've also had two Afghan hounds, a sheepdog terrier mix, a springer spaniel mix, a Saint Bernard mix... but the Newfs are absolutely wonderful. They're the most gentle and kind animals. I can't say enough about them. Their temperament- you can't compare it- just such a kind and loving dog."

While the Witkowskis cherish the breed, Monty, Jetta, and Kashmir must cherish the Witkowskis in turn. They are an integral part of the family. "We don't have children, so when you walk into my house there's just pictures of all my dogs."

Since four of the seven Newf "children" they have owned have come from That Newfoundland Place, Cathie and Tom are appreciative of the communication and opportunities that TNP has provided for them. "Cathy [Derench] is absolutely wonderful. She is like a guardian angel to these dogs. She's always there for you with questions or problems." Overall, Cathie is filled with gratitude for her beloved dogs. "It was just such a godsend that I got them from Cathy."

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the right side of the heart must work harder to push blood through the pulmonary vessels and eventually the heart muscle fatigues and fails.

Another less frequent presentation of heartworm disease in dogs is called caval syndrome. Often these dogs are asymptomatic in all other ways. Caval syndrome is an acute life threatening situation for the patient. In caval syndrome a large mass of heartworms "fall" into the right ventricle and become entwined in the tricuspid valve, which is the heart valve between the right ventricle and the right atrium. This causes an acute right sided heart failure, which acutely limits blood flow to the left side of the heart, causing circulatory collapse. These dogs present to the vet collapsed in shock. Thankfully this is a rare condition.

Next month: Treatment and prevention



Witkowski Family photo

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