

Newfie News



September 2022

VOLUME 4

ISSUE 1

TNP Staff Spotlight: Rebecca Sioui White

What is your volunteer/staff role at TNP?

I'm a foster parent and the MA/RI coordinator for home checks. Home visits are an important part of our application process. I'm really excited to be on the That Newfoundland Place team. As a three-time adopter and now part of the team; I have always been impressed by the thoroughness of the care of each Newfie that comes into TNP and the thoughtfulness in each placement to be sure it is a successful match for the Newfie and our applicant.

How long have you volunteered at TNP?

I began volunteering as a foster mom for TNP in November 2021 and joined the team in April 2022. My first foster was Sampson. He came into our home and hearts for six months for individual home care for a hip injury and soon to be discovered heartworm treatments as well. We fostered Kaki in July who is now in her adopted family. Our third foster, Nacho arrived in August and we decided to adopt him into our family.

It is beneficial to foster dogs for a variety of reasons. As a foster family we can concentrate on each dogs' individual needs whether this is medical and/or behavior. I provide the rescue with a thorough evaluation to assist in reviewing applicants to find a beautiful match for the dogs and the adopters.

Have you volunteered at other organizations?

I am proud to have had the opportunity to volunteer as a board member of Collie Rescue of New England. For fifteen years I volunteered in all facets in rescue including applications, events, foster home coordinator, transportation, Vice President, and I held the position of League President for five years. In addition, my family has fostered over 80 Collies in 15 years and now 3 Newfies since last fall, and we've only adopted 3 of all our fosters in all these years.

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Who's at TNP?



Sully is on the final leg of his 5 month long journey from two ACL surgeries. After being fostered and re-habbed on Long Island, Sully arrived at TNP on August 27 in preparation for his new home. Sully first arrived at TNP in March unable to stand and is now walking his way into a new life. Many thanks to TNP supporters who donated to Sully's care, Veterinary Medical Center of Long Island for the excellent medical care, and foster family Heidi and Andy for their knowledgeable care and re-hab of Sully.

Two 6 year-old-females - **Fawn** the Rat Terrier and **Lucy** the Maltese - are being fostered by Cheryl Montgomery of Kirby Vet until spays and medical care is completed. The Rat Terrier has discharge from her eyes and the Maltese has small lump on her mammary. The dogs are eating well and otherwise in good condition after a bath, haircut, and nail trim. TNP will look for a home where the girls can be placed together. Watch for updates on the TNP Facebook page and future newsletters.



Two 5-year-old female Newfs are currently in foster care in New Jersey, and will be arriving at TNP soon for spaying, evaluation, and placement. Watch the TNP Facebook page and future newsletters for photos and more information on these girls.

Interested in adopting from TNP?

All dogs are placed only in APPROVED homes. Email Nancy for an application: nancy@thatnewfoundlandplace.org. 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



Melissa and Eric Gagnon, and 21-year-old daughter Anna, of Cape Neddick, Maine made **Nova** a part of their family on August 4. Nova is now called **Gronk**, because according to Melissa, "it seems to better suit his personality. He's enormous and goofy and a little bit of swagger."

At just 14 months old, Gronk still has the puppy behaviors, but in an adult-sized body. Still, Melissa said, "he's done a great job adjusting to boundaries, and we are working out what he needs." So far, Gronk has enjoyed lots of walks on the hiking trails near his house and has been to the ocean.

Gronk joins Rina, his 7-year-old Newfoundland sister who was adopted from TNP on July 1 of this year. She came from a mutual friend of the Gagnons and Cathy Derench; Melissa called Rina's former owner to ask for a reference for the TNP application, when she found out that Rina needed to be rehomed due to family hardship. It seemed like the logical next step was to adopt her.

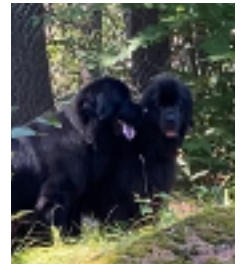
For many years the Gagnons had two Newfs and were excited to meet Gronk (Nova) at TNP

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Recently Adopted - continued

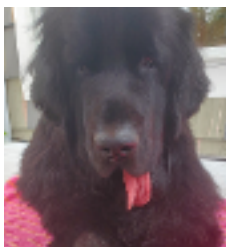
to become a two-Newf family again. Rina made the decision easy. "Rina went right to his cage and picked him," Melissa said. Both Newfs get along great with one another, Melissa remarked. "He's been respectful of [Rina's] age. She's queen bee."

The Gagnons have had Newfoundlands for 22 years, and Gronk is their 5th. Rosie passed away in May 2022 at age 14. Gronk is their first adoption experience. "It's been amazing," Melissa said. "[The TNP staff] did a great job with him." Gronk is likely very pleased with the experience as well.



(l to r): Gronk & Rina

It was "love at first sight" for Michele Plourde and Jim Haslam of Gorham, Maine when they saw two-year-old **Scarlett**. "We're so excited to have her here with us," Michele said.



Scarlett is Michele and Jim's second Newf, both from TNP. They unexpectedly lost almost 10-year-old Inke in July. They were pleased at the prospect of having another Newf in their lives when Cathy of TNP called them about Scarlett, who was a breeder placement. She was adopted on August 7.

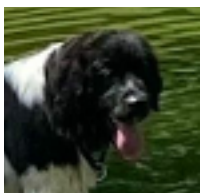
The transition has been smooth. Scarlett is settling into a routine and has met many family members and close friends. Michele is looking forward to bringing her to the Presumscot River near her home and showing her off around town. "She's such a great dog with a lot of love to give," Michele said.

Scarlett is calm, but also playful and is getting to know her housemate, Oz the cat. She loves spending time in her partially fenced three acre yard and has claimed a couple of garden beds as her own, plopping down in the middle of them.

Inke's memory is still fresh with Michele and Jim, but Scarlett is helping to ease the pain. "She's helped to heal a broken heart," Michele said. "We can't wait to give love to her and give her a good life."

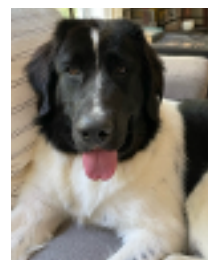


Oz & Scarlett



Annie went to her new home with David and Dani Deyo on August 7. Watch for updates on Annie's new life in future editions of the TNP newsletter and on the TNP Facebook page.

Ten-month-old female Landseer **Kaki, now Hadley**, was adopted on August 19 by Brice and Heather Mason and their 16-year-old son Chase of Niskayuna, New York. Hadley has a 4-year-old Newf brother named Hudson, whom the Masons got from a breeder in Ithaca, NY. "We wanted a playmate for Hudson," Heather said. "We hoped they would be friends." It didn't take long for Hudson and Hadley to wrestle and play in their fenced back yard and snuggle together. They are learning to walk together on separate leads and next summer Heather and Brice plan on having Hadley join Hudson when they visit Brice's mom in Wells, VT, on Lake St. Catherine.



Recently Adopted - continued



The Masons first learned of Newfoundlands 10 years ago when they visited Heather's parents in Maine and went on a boat ride. The captain had 2 Newfs as first mates. Having a Golden Retriever at the time, they thought they might have a Newf "someday." They found TNP through an online search of Newfoundland rescues, deciding to give a home to a dog in need and now have a full home and hearts with two Newfs.

l to r: Hadley & Hudson

Eli, now Nacho, was adopted by foster mom Rebecca Sioui White on August 22. Twenty-week-old Nacho is being house trained in his new Oxford, MA home and Rebecca has been working on socializing him since she began fostering him in early August. "That four month point for a puppy is really important," Rebecca said. "It's a critical time for them to socialize. I take him to stores to socialize and with my other dogs. I'm also teaching him basic commands like 'sit.'"

Nacho joins Penny, a two and a half-year-old Collie, and 5-year-old Newfoundland Koda, a TNP alumni. Rebecca's sons Zach and Joel are away at college but return home in the summer and during breaks and look forward to welcoming Nacho into the family.



Clockwise from top:
Rebecca, Nacho & Koda

Cases of Dog Virus on the Rise

There are reports of increased cases of Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease Complex (CIRDC), especially on the East Coast, and it mirrors COVID in humans. CIRDC is multiple viruses and bacteria that primarily affects the dog's upper respiratory tract. Symptoms include sneezing, coughing and hacking. What is causing concern is that many cases of CIRDC don't respond to commonly prescribed treatments and can result in pneumonia if left untreated.

As with humans, viruses typically spread from dog to dog through contact or airborne viruses. With CIRDC, some dogs are being infected without any dog-dog interaction or other likely means.

What you should know about CIRDC:

- There are many variations of canine viruses, at least nine.
- There are vaccines for some variations of the virus, such as Parvovirus, Distemper, Canine Influenza and Bordetella. However, vaccinations may not prevent CIRDC.
- Most dogs show signs of the virus; however, some infectious dogs show no signs of illness.
- The virus is spread through airborne droplets or surface contamination (ex: on hands and clothing).
- Severe cases and death from CIRDC mainly occur in puppies, older dogs with health problems, or related to infection of canine distemper.

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Expert Excerpts

A Strong Digestive System is the Gateway to Good Health

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

Anyone who's ever owned a dog has most likely dealt with at least one, if not many, episodes of gastrointestinal distress, ie. vomiting and diarrhea. While fairly obvious in this situation, there are many other symptoms that can be attributed to gut health issues, such as chronic or intermittent poor appetite, GERD (reflux), drooling and lip licking, and flatulence to name a few.

Have you ever felt nauseous or bloated? You look and act fine so no one would guess you don't feel well. This happens in dogs as well, they just can't verbalize their discomfort. While sometimes we can clearly pinpoint a reason for the gastrointestinal disturbance (getting into the garbage for example), other times it's not so obvious. Many recent studies have focused on the link between the gut (gastrointestinal) microbiome (microorganisms) and health of the gut, as well as the health of all tissues in the body.

How the gastrointestinal system works

In addition to digesting food and absorbing nutrients, the gut is also a sensory organ. Everything that a dog eats is exposed to the gut. The breakdown products of digestion are delivered to every tissue in the body where they affect the immune system, central nervous system, and inflammatory pathways. The health of the gut microbiome plays a role in

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Cases of Dog Virus on the Rise continued from page 4

- Co-infection with multiple viruses or bacteria is common and can increase disease severity.

What to do if your dog shows signs of CIRDC

If your dog displays signs of illness such as a cough, nasal discharge, diarrhea, lethargy, loss of appetite, etc., avoid contact with others as much as possible. Contact your veterinarian at the first sign of illness and ask what he/she recommends.

If your dog has recently been to training classes, doggy daycare, or grooming, inform the facility that your dog is showing symptoms of CIRDC so they can disinfect the facility to avoid infection in other dogs.

There is no way to avoid viruses in dogs (or humans), but quick action can help to prevent the spread and potentially result in less severe symptoms.

From: Gail Fisher's Dog Tracks: There's a new dog virus in circulation, Manchester Union Leader August 21, 2022 https://www.unionleader.com/news/animals/gail-fishers-dog-tracks-theres-a-new-dog-virus-in-circulation/article_c9dd549e-9c18-5e3c-b45f-667d1b7fc85a.html.

Additional information was obtained from The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine website: vet.osu.edu

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It takes lot of people to run a rescue from the actual rescuing to the adoptions.

Yes, so true. Rescue takes a village! It is so appreciated to have people help on any level they are able.

Sometimes the dog is a rescue but often rescuers are assisting families that have life coming at them fast. Families often are forced to make a difficult decision to surrender their dog due to heartbreak, financial issues, a divorce etc. In these cases it's not "rescue"; the dogs have been loved and cared for and will be adopted into another family to love and care for them.

Our family is thankful to have experienced the foster experience full circle. It is a true privilege of being part of an applicant seeing their dog for the first

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time and becoming an adopter. Many of my closest friends I met through dogs. This includes fellow volunteers, adopters and in my career working with dogs.

People ask us as fosterers "how can you give them up?" ...but you're giving a wonderful gift to other people. Someone gave that gift to me when I adopted. Rescue is very much about the human hearts that surround each dog; this includes families turning the dogs into rescue, the tireless and dedicated rescue volunteers, and ultimately the adopters.

I'm always happy to talk to anyone interested in fostering or volunteering with rescue.

What pets do you currently have?

Our Collie Penny is 2.5 years old, our Newfie Koda, is 5 years old and adopted from That Newfoundland Place in 2017. We also recently adopted a 5 month old Landseer Newfie boy named Nacho. We also have a bunny named Pumpkin and our guinea pigs Salt and Pepper.



Rebecca with (l to r) Koda, Nacho and Penny

How many Newfs have you had?

We have adopted three Newfies, all That Newfoundland Place alums. Abby, our first Newfie was adopted in 2010 at five years old. Koda we adopted in 2017 at 5 months old. We adopted Nacho in August 2022.

Do you have a paying job? What do you do?

I own and operate a professional pet sitting and dog walking business, Rising Sun Pet Sitting & Dog Walking since 2012. We have six employees on our team and proudly serve the communities of Southern Worcester County. Our team is committed to providing exceptional pet care including custom daily dog walks and vacation care of all pets.

Where do you live? What family members are at home?

I live in Oxford, MA. I have two sons, Zachary and Joel. Zach is going for his master's degree at the University of Pittsburgh and Joel is a junior at Duke University. They grew up experiencing firsthand both the challenges and the rewards of volunteering in rescue. Fostering is a family affair and they have been a part of dogs coming into rescue and being adopted. They have seen our treasured friendships formed by our giving to others.

How did you meet Cathy Derench and get involved with TNP?

I met Cathy 12 years ago when I applied to be considered to adopt a Newfie. We share a commitment of volunteering in rescue. I retired as League President of Collie Rescue in 2017 so I could concentrate on my family and building my dog walking business. With my sons at school this was the perfect timing for me to get back into volunteering in rescue. I am thankful for the opportunity to join the TNP team.

What is the most challenging part of your volunteer work?

Rescue volunteers are very heart driven and the time and energy commitment of helping others can cause 'compassion fatigue.' Volunteers need to reset and recharge and be sure to sometimes step away and spend time with family and friends. It's something you have to be aware of when you're volunteering because you have so much heart and soul into something you love and you can begin to feel 'compassion fatigue.'

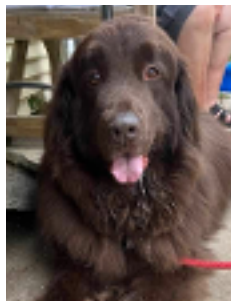
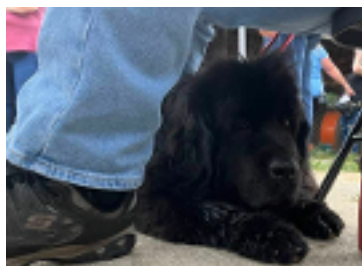
Rescue volunteering is something I am thankful for having had in my life. It has completely changed our lives as a family. My boys, since they were three years old, have been a part of all these dogs we were fostering, events, transport and the involvement has been extremely rewarding for us. You also learn when you're fostering that you can't just give and give to others and sometimes it's okay to give to yourself, too. Sometimes we forget that. As a foster mom when you have a dog come into your home you begin evaluating that dog from day one always thinking of the applicants waiting to adopt. But you have to sometimes think of yourself too and if there was a dog that was a "heart dog" for you, it's okay to give to yourself and adopt.

What is the most rewarding part?

The most rewarding part of fostering and working in rescue is seeing the adoption make a difference in someone else's life. I have found over the years while volunteering in rescue that we've met so many people friends. Each dog has many human hearts that are surrounding them; people turning them into rescue, the volunteers, the adopters. I look back at my life and many of my most special friendships have been through dog rescue. Rescue is not just about making a difference in a dog's life but it's also making a difference in people's lives. Volunteering comes with great rewards.

Photos from the August Open House

TNP held its final Open House of 2022 on August 21 with a great turnout of previous adopters, new friends and wonderful dogs of all sizes. *Photos by Lori Babcock & Cathy Derench*



TNP Annual Reunion and Fundraiser

Sunday, October 9

554 Pucker Street, Coventry, CT

After two years...it's back! Everyone's favorite TNP event, the Annual Reunion and Fundraiser. Dozens of TNP alumni gather to share stories and enjoy the company of fellow dog lovers. Feast on delicious food, and buy raffle tickets for the a chance to win one of MANY beautiful baskets and prizes with Newfoundland themed items, dog essentials, cat treats and toys, and something to pamper humans too. All proceeds support That Newfoundland Place.

ALL well-behaved, leashed dogs welcome!

The Reunion and Fundraiser is open to the public, held outside, and subject to COVID protocols.

Wanted: Grant Writer

Do you have experience writing grants? TNP is seeking someone to research grants, write proposals, and follow up. This is an ongoing commitment; however, hours are flexible. Contact Cathy Derench at cathy@thatnewfoundlandplace.org or call 860-465-6839.

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what information, so to speak, is delivered throughout the body. Adverse changes in the microbiome in people have been linked to asthma, rheumatoid arthritis, obesity, autism spectrum disorder, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, MS, and stroke. We can extrapolate that in dogs an altered microbiome could be linked to certain disease outside of the gastrointestinal tract as well.

Developing a healthy gut

Research has shown that supporting a healthy gut microbiome is key in preventing many common gastrointestinal disturbances, and strongly suggests it supports the overall health of the host (your dog). Probiotics have long been a staple in veterinary medicine to treat diarrhea. Probiotics are live active bacteria that we feed to our dogs to help repopulate the gut with healthy bacteria. There is increasing emphasis on the importance of prebiotics for gut health as pre and probiotics work together to promote the health of the gut microbiome. Prebiotics are food for the microbiome, usually in the form of fiber. When the bacteria "digest" the prebiotic the byproducts of digestion provide fuel for intestinal cells as well as fuel for other beneficial bacteria. This stimulates the growth of healthy bacteria while inhibiting the growth of pathogenic (disease causing) bacteria.

Next month: Causes of an imbalanced gastrointestinal system and possible solutions

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