

# Newfie News



November 2022

VOLUME 4

ISSUE 3

## Great Times at the 2022 TNP Reunion and Fundraiser

A beautiful fall day greeted TNP alumni and new friends on October 9 for the 9th Annual TNP Reunion and Fundraiser. After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, nearly 200 people and dozens of dogs gathered to connect in person again, see old friends, and make new ones.



A fall "photo booth" was set up with hay bales, mums, and pumpkins to capture memories of the day. As usual, the food did not disappoint with a delicious Italian buffet provided by Illiano's Grill of Yantic, CT, and the infamous Sweet Megs cupcakes for the perfect ending to the meal.

Posing for the camera

Dr. Wendy Ernst of Kirby Vet answered all kinds of canine questions and Fred Olsen reprised his role of raffle auctioneer, pulling tickets until the multiple tables and two fences of Newf-inspired (and a few non-Newf) baskets and merchandise were empty.

The highlight of the day was the many reunions – both people and dogs. This is one of the most joyous days for TNP staff as they see the happy, healthy dogs that have come through the rescue and the amazing families who have taken them into their hearts.

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Hosting the TNP Reunion and Fundraiser takes a tremendous amount of work and preparation.

The TNP staff spend the weeks and months before the event making arrangements and collecting raffle prizes. The two days prior to the event are spent hustling to set up tables, organize raffle prizes, and decorate to ensure the event is a success.

Check out this video to see the result of their hard work:

[https://www.facebook.com/cathy.derench/posts/pfbid037Lw1hXyCBnMK2MAPrWBfbgtDQR2yURWkoLBbdTidxR42q762C85qT3fxjhcG2Jql?from\\_close\\_friend=1](https://www.facebook.com/cathy.derench/posts/pfbid037Lw1hXyCBnMK2MAPrWBfbgtDQR2yURWkoLBbdTidxR42q762C85qT3fxjhcG2Jql?from_close_friend=1)



Cathy Derench puts the finishing touches on the raffle table

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## Who's at TNP?

Blue is currently in foster care with TNP Staff Nancy Weaver and is in the process of being transported to TNP in Connecticut.

Other dogs are also in the works, scheduled to arrive in November.

Stay tuned for more information - and photos - via the TNP Facebook page and That Newfoundland Place Newsletter.

### Interested in adopting from TNP?

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



Scarlet(l) & Sully (r)

If laughter is the best medicine, Michele Plourde and Jim Haslam will be healthy for a long time. The couple adopted 2-year-old **Sully** on September 8 after adopting 2-year-old Scarlet on August 8. "We just laugh every day," Michele said. "It's funny having young dogs again. Some of the silliness we see with these guys is just a giggle."

Sully and Scarlet share their Gorham, Maine home with Oz the cat, who takes all the new action around the house in stride. The dogs are already two peas in a pod. "They are a good match," Michele said. "Their personalities are good together."

Sully has healed and rehabbed from two ACL surgeries, after not being able to walk when he came into TNP in the spring. He's enjoying his new mobility. In fact, the biggest challenge has been not having the dogs play too hard because of Sully's knees. So far, the level of exercise Sully has had with walks and playtime with Scarlet has not had any serious repercussions. "He gets lame when he overdoes it," Michele said. That's when she and Jim take note to provide Sully with extra rest. "He will always have a limp on his right leg," Michele noted.

Michele and Jim have a holistic vet in addition to traditional vet for their pets. Both Sully and Scarlet have an initial visit in mid-November for maintenance and support. Michele and Jim sought laser and acupuncture treatments for their first Newf – and fellow TNP adoptee – Inke for her arthritis and to support chronic ear infections during her last year of life, and it helped. Inke passed away unexpectedly in July at nearly 10-years-old.



Sully (l) & Scarlet (r)

In addition to smiles, Sully and Scarlet have filled Michel and Jim's home with love once again. Michele noted, "we're so in love with both of them it's unbelievable."

Two-year-old **Tonka** "has been a great addition and is settling in really well" with George, Mayling, and 4-year-old Hugh Fraser of Weston, CT. "She's very patient and gentle, but still has some puppy energy," said Mayling. "She's pretty low maintenance.

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## Recently Adopted continued

"Tonka" continued from page 2

Tonka has especially been a delight to Hugh, who exclaimed, "I get along with her really well." The Frasers have a steep set of stairs to the upstairs bedrooms, so Tonka waits downstairs every morning for Hugh. "I say hello and then I run away and she runs after me," Hugh said, adding "I'm excited." Tonka drops Hugh off at preschool every day and picks him up. She has become a favorite of his classmates and relishes in all the attention every day.



Tonka and Hugh

Tonka is the Fraser's only pet. The last dog they had was 10-15 years ago. With travel and a baby in the past decade, the timing was not right. "We've been very lucky with [Tonka]," George said. George has had dogs his whole life, including English Mastiffs, however, Mayling is new to dogs. "It was a lot easier than I expected," she said "She is laid back, easy to get along with, and so well trained. It has not been so much of an adjustment."

The Frasers explored several dog breeds, but it was Hugh who kept coming back to Newfoundlands. They began researching Newfoundlands on the internet and "That Newfoundland Place popped up on a search," George said. "It was a bit accidental but it opened up our options. We found [rescue] interesting." After filling out an application, the Frasers attended an open house where they met other Newfs and Newf owners, and got the call a short time after that regarding Tonka, who was an owner surrender. They adopted her on September 25.



Hugh helps George walk Tonka

"[TNP] made it easy for us," Mayling said. George concurred "It was really smooth and painless, with tips [on how to care for Tonka]. It's been really terrific."

Love comes in small packages for Deidre McGlynn of Columbia, Connecticut. She adopted Lucy the Maltese and Fawn the Rat Terrier – called **Miss Lucy and Miss Fawn** – on September 25. "It took them less than a week to stretch out and own the place," Deidre said. "We could tell by what we knew about them in advance that it would be [a] smooth [transition]."



Miss Lucy

The 6-year-old females have two new housemates – a low key 8-year-old rescued male Yorkie named Ziggy and Cooper, a one-and-a-half-year-old high energy male Pomeranian rescued a couple of months ago. Cooper has become quite enamored of Lucy and the pair often affectionately play together. Deidre's 24-year-old daughter also lives at home and is the one that encouraged Deidre to adopt Miss Lucy and Miss Fawn. "She spotted the dogs on the TNP website and pointed them out over and over," Deidre said.



Miss Fawn

While they are fitting in nicely, Miss Lucy and Miss Fawn are very protective of each other. Deidre also calls them "voracious eaters. They eat separately from the boys."

Deidre is very familiar with small dogs and has owned them for several years. She lost her female Rat Terrier to kidney failure a few months ago and is pleased to have females back in

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## Recently Adopted continued

"Miss Lucy" and "Miss Fawn" continued from page 3

the house along with the certain swagger they have about them. "They are absolutely precious," Deidre said of Miss Lucy and Miss Fawn. While they are very sweet, they also have some moxie. And now, a loving home.



**Blackberry, now called Mazy May**, left October 10 for her new home with Gerry Hripak and Cecilia Poirier of South Hadley, Massachusetts. This 5-year-old arrived at TNP on September 13 as a puppy mill rescue and now has a Newfie brother named Finn. Watch the TNP Facebook page and That Newfoundland Place Newsletter for updates.

Joe & Jan Coates's Washington, Massachusetts home is full with Newfs again after adopting male **Charlie**, 7, and female **Riley**, 7 ½, on October 14. Joe reports the pair are "doing great."

Charlie and Riley are slimming down with walks on a quarter mile loop through the woods and within the yard two to three times a day. Charlie has been exploring the property a little more on his own, traveling further and further along the 3,000 -foot perimeter of the 5-acre fenced yard.



Charlie (l) & Riley (r)

Inside, both dogs enjoy their beds in the mudroom by the sliding glass doors where they can keep an eye on the yard and beds by the stove to be closer to the family. A bonded pair, Charlie and Riley stay close to each other but have started to feel comfortable with separate time on their own or with Joe in the barn or Jan in the house. Yet, they still like to sleep next to each other, sometimes touching.

The Coates's have "always had Newfs and Great Pyrenees" and have been involved in rescuing a wide variety of dogs for about 45 years, including spaniels, Dachshunds, and terriers. They adopted another pair of Newfs from TNP about 10 years ago - Duke, who passed away last year at 12 ½, and Daisy, who passed away a couple of years ago at age 11.



Riley (l) & Charlie (r)

They also adopted Casey in the late 1990s and Brooklyn, a 190-pound St. Bernard, about 20 years ago. Joe and Jan lost their 9-year-old Great Pyrenees, Ernie, two months ago to bone cancer and were ready to open their homes to big dogs again when Charlie and Riley came along. "We're real happy with them," Joe said.

Debi and Gary Wallace added 5-year-old **Sundae, now River**, to their Newf family on October 18.

"She's doing very well," Debi said. "I'm surprised at how quickly she's adjusted." Coming from a puppy mill, River has not had a lot of interaction with different environments, so she still has some adjusting to do both inside and outside. "She doesn't know how to play," Debi said.



Still, River has become very attached to 4-year-old Jake. Jake is happy because he is able to

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## Recently Adopted continued

*"Miss Lucy and Miss Fawn continued from page 3*

run now with River since Gabe, who turns 11 this month, is no longer interested in running around.

Debi is enjoying experiencing all of River's "firsts," not only in her new family, but potentially in her life. "I get so excited when she has firsts; sleeping on the dog bed or first kisses," Debi said. The Wallace's also have cats, goats, and horses on their Chestertown, New York property, but are holding off on that "irst" introduction until River is more comfortable with her immediate surroundings.



River front, Jake back

River is the Wallace's third Newf; Gabe and Jake were adopted in 2019 from That Newfoundland Place. Debi has always been partial to big dogs, especially seniors, and when her Old English Sheepdog Willow passed away in 2021, she knew another dog was in her future. "I said I always wanted one more Newf. I talked to Cathy and said 'If you ever get a senior female, keep me in mind.'"

Debi has noticed that River is the small one in the bunch. "We call her the 'Pocket Newfoundland,'" she said. "She's so petite. The boys are so much bigger. She's got very dainty bones." River's small stature doesn't mean she's small on sweetness. "She's such a gentle soul," Debi said. "She doesn't have a mean bone in her body." In time, River will likely also be big on love.

After being fostered after her spay surgery by TNP staff Lori Babcock, 4-year-old **Maddie** is now happy in her forever home with Rachel and Jakob. She was adopted on October 24. Watch the TNP Facebook page and future newsletters for updates.



### 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](mailto:cathy@thatnewfoundlandplace.org) or call 860-465-6839.

### November is Adopt a Senior Pet Month



With advances in veterinary care and animal research, many pets are living longer, healthier lives. This is welcome news to pet owners who can love their pets longer, but it also means there are more senior pets available for adoption. For Newfs, senior age is considered 6-8 years old (depending on who you ask) and TNP often has Newfs at or approaching senior age, surrendered for a variety of reasons.

Senior dogs can provide just as much love as a dog of any age, and with the increased maturity (usually) comes a calmer, well-trained dog. Yet, as with any mammal, aging means an increased risk of disease and chronic medical conditions,

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## Expert Excerpts

### What to Expect in Your Dog's Golden Years

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

Most of us are lucky enough to enjoy our dogs well into their teen years [or pre-teen for Newfs] so we all realize that with age comes certain health concerns, just like people. No two dogs age the same so it's difficult to make general recommendations based on age alone, but there are some good rules of thumb to follow for caring for an elderly pet.

Older dogs need exercise. Sitting still leads to stiffness in the joints and progressive weakening of the muscles so it is important that our older dogs continue to move. Due to arthritis and musculoskeletal or neurological conditions that develop with age, we tend to allow our older dogs to become more sedentary. While they certainly can't stand up to the rigorous exercises that they enjoyed in their youth, they still need to move. Consider shorter, more frequent walks, swimming if they enjoy swimming, or even a physical therapy consult to tailor exercises to your individual pet. Many physical therapy locations also offer underwater treadmills which is perfect for an older dog with sore joints. As a veterinarian I know it is difficult emotionally to make your dog move because you worry they are in pain, but if they don't move it will just make things worse. Talk to your veterinarian about medications, nutritional supplements, and alternative therapies (ie. acupuncture, PT, etc.) that may help ease your dog's joint pain to make the daily walks more comfortable for everybody.

Our pets experience the same sensory losses as they as age people do. Many lose their hearing and their eyesight to some degree, or in some cases completely. While there are certainly some medical conditions that can

November is Adopt a Senior Dog Month cont fr page 5

including arthritis, cancer, heart disease, kidney & liver disease, canine cognitive dysfunction, and neurological conditions. More frequent veterinary visits for older pets may lead to early detection as well as managing and monitoring any conditions they may have or pain control and accommodations to keep them comfortable.

Many people adapt their homes to "age in place" and there are accommodations that can be made to make the adjustment to the senior years easier on your pet. Some suggestions:

- **Non-slick walking surfaces** Dogs with arthritis or other mobility issues will appreciate carpeted areas to help them gain traction to stand up and walk. Use throw rugs on hardwood floors to make a pathway to areas of the house your Newf frequents: the door, water and food bowls, sleeping areas, and rooms where they can gather with their people. You may want to consider dog shoes to provide them with a non-slip surface.
- **Easily accessible food and water** Make sure water and food bowls are easily accessible for your Newf and in multiple locations where they rest and play.
- **Potty pads** Your senior Newf's bladder muscles may not be as strong as they used to be, so bring them out for bathroom breaks as often as you can. If your senior dog has an issue with incontinence, provide potty pads in key areas of the house where they lay to try to keep them dry if there is an accident. You can also use a belly band- a pad for the groin area - to minimize mess from accidents. Just be sure to check it frequently for wetness.
- **Ramps** Stairs can be difficult to navigate for senior dogs. Ramps can

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ease the pressure on joints that comes from walking up and down stairs. TIP: It will likely take some training to use a ramp and this is best achieved before the dog actually needs to use it.

- **Sleeping Arrangements** Perhaps your Newf is struggling to get up the stairs to sleep in your bedroom with you. If you don't want to move downstairs yourself, you will need to train them to get used to sleeping downstairs by themselves. They may enjoy their own corner with comfy bedding.
- **Harnesses** If you've ever tried lifting your Newf by yourself, you quickly realized that it's not a long-term, sustainable solution (and likely your back reminded you of that). There are harnesses with shoulder and hip handles to help you safely lift your Newf and assist them with walking. Your Newf and your back will thank you.
- **Nursing care** If your dog spends most of the day lying down, sore spots can occur, especially over pressure points such as hips and elbows. Check these areas for any open wounds and seek medical care for infections. If your Newf can't move well on their own, be sure to help them change positions. A harness can be great for helping with this task. Also, be sure your Newf is kept clean and dry, washing any areas that may come in contact with urine. And don't forget to check your dog's nails. If they are doing less walking to grind the nails naturally, you may need to trim them more frequently.

With a few modifications and considerations, you can keep your Newf more comfortable in their golden years, or consider adding a wonderful senior Newf to your family.

Source: <https://www.invma.org/public-resources/november-is-national-senior-pet-month/>

contribute to vision issues and hearing loss, the majority of pets simply suffer from age related decline of these senses. Unfortunately, there is not much we can do to change that but by being aware that your pet has these issues, you can help them navigate life without problems. Remember, if they are off leash, they may not be able to hear you, so many older dogs should stay on their leash, or at least always be supervised outdoors for their safety. I often joke with my clients if their dog has vision issues not to rearrange the furniture because dogs certainly do learn patterns. Many dogs with the loss of these senses do become more anxious, especially in a new environment or if there are changes in the household. Still, dogs are quite adaptable, and they will adjust to the changes if given time. In the meantime, if they are having serious anxiety discuss this with your veterinarian as there are some medications that may help.

*Next month: Keeping Your Newf Comfortable in Their Senior Years*

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