

Newfie News



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Is it Love?

It has been scientifically proven that dogs – and many animals – are capable of expressing feelings similar to humans: happiness, fear, grief, etc. But what about love? Since it's not easy to define what love feels like in humans, using the same term to describe the feelings of animals can be difficult, yet there are many definitive dog behaviors toward humans that *look* like love.

Just as with other emotions, scientists and animal behaviorists have researched whether dogs are expressing love. Are dogs' behaviors that appear to be love tied to their desire for food and other necessities? Are we idealizing that behavior in human terms of love? Or is it more than that?

The chemistry of love

When humans get that warm fuzzy feeling or the flutter inside of them when they are near someone they love, that is a burst of the hormone oxytocin. The same hormone is present when humans and animals interact. Oxytocin is also linked to bonding, trust, positive communication, and reduced stress. Many dogs release the hormone when they are being petted, which accounts for the ultra-satisfied and trusting behavior that some dogs show when getting a good belly rub or scratch behind the ear.

The contact that Newfs make when they cuddle with

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The Top 10 Most Affectionate Dog Breeds

We show our love for our dogs by showering them with pets, belly rubs, hugs, and kisses. And dogs return that affection in many forms: sloppy kisses, cuddling, tail wagging, nuzzling, leaning into us, and more.

Nearly any dog can show love and affection toward their human with the right amount of care and love they receive, but there are some dog breeds that are more pre-dispositioned to be affectionate with humans. An affectionate breed is defined as one that enjoys being with their owners, seeks out affection from their owners, and easily and happily receives affection.

Of course, there is no definitive list, and the answer to "most affectionate dog breeds" will differ with who you ask, but research of several online publications and blogs - Southern Living, K9 of

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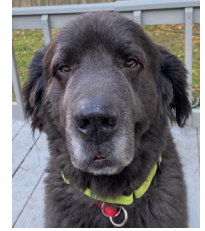
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Who's at TNP?

Blue is finishing up treatment for heartworm, with his second and third Immiticide injections scheduled for February 20 & 21. He will be ready for a new home at the end of March. This 6-year-old boy has been under TNP care since November 5 and is currently in foster care in Connecticut. Watch for updates on the TNP Facebook page and future issues of the newsletter!



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

Ollie was adopted by his new family, Taryn & Chris Masi, and 18-year-old daughter Leah who is currently away at college, on January 18.

"He's fitting in like he's always been here," Taryn said. The only two family member who have not welcomed Ollie into their East Hampton, New York home with open arms – or paws – are cats Ziggy and Chachi. They are taking a little bit longer to warm up to Ollie. For his part, Ollie is becoming more comfortable with his space each day and exploring more of his new home.



This 2-year-old sweetheart "loves to run, play with stuffed animals, and loves to walk," according to Taryn. Most of all Ollie likes to be with people. Ollie was surrendered to TNP in early January due to his owner passing away and Taryn suspects that he spent most of his time indoors, as Ollie is the first one at the door when it's time to go inside.

Ollie is the Masi's 6th Newfoundland. Four of them have been from a breeder, beginning with Cooper who passed away at just 2 years old from an autoimmune disorder. Then came Tucker, CC, Zoey – who was rescued from a local family who wasn't taking care of her, - and Kota. The Masi's lost Kota at Thanksgiving last year, at age 13.

Taryn had a half Newfie when she was growing up and knew many people who had Newfoundlands, including a teacher and friends of her parents. She and her family fell in love with the breed.

The Masi's usually have two Newfs at a time and hope to have another one once Ollie is completely comfortable with his new family, probably in about a year. They will add a puppy as Taryn feels it is easier for a puppy to assimilate into the family, and it would be easier for Ollie, too.

Taryn heard about TNP from a Newf friend. "People had been sending me things since Kota passed," she said. "One friend showed me something of Ollie and I knew that was my dog. [The information about him] arrived on



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Expert Excerpts

How Safe are Human OTC Medications for Your Dog?

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

People often wonder what over the counter medications are safe to give their dogs. While many of the medications we take are safe for our pets, many are not, and some have a much more narrow margin of safety (meaning the dose range is very small and needs to be very accurate), while others require a much larger dose for our dogs compared to our dose. The following is meant to be a guide only and not an inclusive list. Remember, all dogs are individuals and any medication can cause an unexpected or idiosyncratic reaction in an individual.

Antihistamines such as Benadryl, Zyrtec, and Claritin are all considered safe for dogs. Benadryl does require a higher dose for dogs than people so don't be surprised if the dose your veterinarian gives sounds high. Antihistamines are used for allergic reactions, such as bee stings, hives, and the itchiness many dogs develop from environmental allergies.

Dramamine for motion sickness is safe and effective in dogs, and its sister anti-nausea drug meclizine, brand name Bonine. We use these to prevent nausea from car rides or in our patients that are suffering from vertigo.

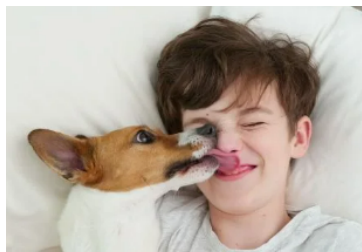
Top 10 Most Affectionate Dog Breeds continued from page 1

Mine, Reader's Digest, Parade, Pet's Radar, Wide Open Pets, Daily Paws, Pet Keen, Hepper, and Women's Day – revealed many similarities. Some of the choices will come as no surprise (was there ever a doubt Newfies would make the list) and others may provide an education on breeds you knew less about. The list is arranged in order of how often the breed was mentioned from the sources listed above.

1. Staffordshire/Pit Bull Terriers - These breeds often receive a bad wrap as being vicious attack dogs and are frequently a banned breed when seeking a home rental. Yet, they appeared on the list more than any other breed.
2. Golden Retriever - It's no surprise to find one of the most popular dogs in the US also ranked as one of the most affectionate.
3. Great Dane - This gentle giant is also a great family dog that loves his family and craves affection. Like a Newfie, he will lean into physical attention and nudge his humans if he feels he is not getting enough.
4. Boxer - The Boxer forms deep connections with her human family and seeks out attention.
5. Bichon Frise - This small dog has an adorable face and a fluffy appearance that makes it almost impossible not to hug this cutie. Fortunately, they love to cuddle in return.
6. Cavalier King Charles Spaniel - Another toy breed, this true lap dog loves to snuggle and cuddle with his human family.
7. Newfoundland - Anyone who has owned a Newfie can attest to their affectionate nature. While they may not all be cuddlers and kissers, most lean into any kind of physical touch and show love for their humans in many ways.
8. Labrador Retriever - Another breed consistently ranked one of the most popular in the US, Labs are an all around great family dog, including affectionately.
9. Pug - The Pug also craves physical touch from their humans and loves to press against them. If you are looking for a nap buddy, a Pug would be a good choice.
10. Bulldog - The Bulldog is a wonderful family pet. They are very social and, like many other breeds on the list, thrive on physical touch and attention from their families. They love to cuddle and shower their humans with kisses.

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their humans, or even sit on their feet as they have been known to do, also releases oxytocin, in both human and dog. The gentle touching your dog is seeking mimics the maternal affection between him as a puppy and his dog mom, as well as that between human mother and child. In fact, studies have shown that the emotions you feel for your Newf and other pets really is love. The same neurological pathway the brain uses to process our love for our children is the same used for pets.



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Serotonin in the brain regulates mood and is also found in both humans and dogs. Many studies over the years have been published relating to increased serotonin levels humans experience in the company of dogs, resulting in reduced anxiety. But increased serotonin can also lead to increased happiness and the chemical is released in both humans and dogs when there is kind, physical touch.

More scientific evidence

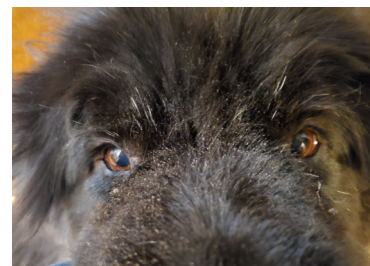
Scientists studied brainwaves and scents to further quantify the connections that dogs feel toward humans. In 2014, Emory University researchers used fMRI scans to gather information about dogs' reactions to scents. The section of the dogs' brains associated with positive expectations reacted most strongly when dogs were presented with scents from familiar humans compared to other humans and even other dogs.

Scientists have also studied how human and animal brains react to emotion-laden sounds. The experiments, conducted at Eotvos Lorand University in Budapest, concluded that the same area of the brain in both humans and dogs reacted positively to happy sounds. This suggests a strong ability to communicate types of emotions across species.

Words also seem to have an effect on dogs. A 2021 study conducted by Canine Cottage fitted dogs with heart rate tracking collars and monitored them for seven days. The average heart rate was 67 beats per minute, but jumped to 98 beats per minute when the dogs heard 'I love you' from their owners.

That loving look in their eyes

Who can resist a dog when they give you those "puppy dog eyes?" It seems no matter what they've done – stolen your dinner off the counter or trashed the living room – you just can't stay mad at them when they give you that look. As dogs were domesticated and bred, one of the characteristics they developed was movable eyebrows. It is what makes the eyes look so expressive. Studies have revealed that looking at puppy dog eyes and looking at a newborn baby are tied to the same emotional response in humans, which can trigger nurturing.



You may also notice that your Newf will stare directly into your eyes. This is something most other animals will not do. Dogs may seek eye contact as a way of communicating with humans and seeking guidance. Prolonged gazing deepens bonding and devotion for both dog and human as eye contact has been proven to increase levels of oxytocin for both species.

Is It Love? continued from page 4

Yes, it's love

You could say that behavior scientist Clive Wynne wrote the book about dog love. He is the founder of the [Canine Science Collaboratory at Arizona State University](#) and author of the book "[Dog Is Love: Why and How Your Dog Loves You.](#)"

Wynne conducted experiments in his lab as well as with his own dog, Xephos and concluded that "dogs are perfect companions because they actually have the ability to love." Further, based off his research and that of others regarding how humans and dogs form emotional bonds, Wynne is comfortable using the word love.



If a dog shows their belly, or sleeps on their back with their chest up, it's a sign of trust and love. These pooches trust the humans around them enough to put themselves in a vulnerable position.

Can dogs love other dogs?

There are some good arguments that dogs do love humans, but what about other dogs? Do dogs feel love toward other canines? Scientists have studied that too and found that



oxytocin is present when dogs interact with other dogs as well. However, the exact dog characteristics that your Newf is looking for in a love partner may be up for debate!

Whatever you call your dog's behavior "love" or something else, one thing is for sure. They seem to enjoy spending time with us, and the feeling is mutual. And both you and your dog are better for it.

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Resources/More information

<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/lifestyle/can-our-dogs-really-love-us/>

<https://embarkvet.com/resources/science-behind-why-we-love-our-dogs/>

<https://www.insider.com/vets-reveal-how-can-i-tell-if-my-dog-likes-me-signs#sharing-toys-is-another-way-that-dogs-express-love-9>

<https://www.dailypaws.com/living-with-pets/pet-owner-relationship/do-dogs-love-us-understanding-emotions-in-dogs>

<https://people.com/pets/dogs-heart-rates-increase-owners-say-i-love-you-study/>

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/dog-psychology_n_8398778

Dog Is Love: Why and How Your Dog Loves You -<https://www.clivewynne.com/book-1>

Save the Dates 2023 TNP Calendar of Events

TNP has announced the dates of the Open Houses for 2023, all of which occur on Sundays:

April 23

June 4

August 20

The Reunion/Annual Fundraiser is tentatively set for October 1.

All events are held at 554 Pucker St., Coventry, CT, rain or shine.

Watch the TNP Facebook page and future newsletters for more information.



Over 700K cancer deaths in the United States is the projection for 2023.

We all know someone affected by cancer.

The funds we hope to raise will help sustain critical research and patient services. Every dollar really does count.

What: **Relay for Life of Northeastern CT "A Newf for Life" team, lots of fun for a great cause.**

We NEED YOU and your NEWFs on our team!!

When: **Saturday, June 10th (ends 10am June 11th for those that stay overnight)**

Where: **Roseland Park, 205 Roseland Park Rd, Woodstock CT**



Pictures from "A Newf for Life" team 2022

Contact Christina McKenna-Weinberg for more details

Cell: 860-455-3770 camckenna2000@gmail.com

Relay For Life is a movement, a community of like-minded survivors, caregivers, volunteers, and participants who believe that the future can be free from cancer. For over 35 years, communities across the world have come together to honor and remember loved ones and take action for lifesaving change. Funds raised through Relay For Life directly support breakthrough research, 24/7 support for cancer patients, access to lifesaving screenings, and much more.

Recently Adopted - Ollie continued from page 2

the day of Kota's birthday. It was a 'meant to be' situation." Taryn was impressed with TNP the more she learned about them. "It's wonderful what they do," she said.

Ollie has also made an impression on the Masi's "He's already brought us so much joy and it's only been a week," Taryn remarked. "He's amazingly sweet. He just wants to kiss and hug you. He just wants to be loved." And he is much loved in return.



Ava arrived at TNP on January 18 because she was not getting along with the other female Canines in the house. She interacted well with the males and females at TNP. Ava was vetted and groomed and adopted just a week later by Mitch Gutcho and Mary Devitt of Amston, Connecticut. TNP learned from her previous owners that Ava loves to walk and swim, which will keep Mitch and Mary

active. Watch for updates in a future issue of the newsletter!



Expert Excerpts cont. from page 3

Topical cortisone creams and ointments can be safely used, just don't let your pet lick the area, and don't bandage over an ointment. These would be used for focal rashes that are itchy and inflamed.

Topical antibiotic creams such as Neosporin and Bacitracin, as well as any generic triple antibiotic ointment, can be used on minor wounds.

Antacids such as Pepcid and Prilosec are often recommended for dogs with upset stomachs and are generally considered safe.

Next month: more medications that are safe for your dog and some you should use with caution.

After nearly 10 years, Amazon will discontinue AmazonSmile, their program where customers choose from over 1 million organizations to receive a donation based on their purchase amounts. Amazon cites the program did not create the impact that they had originally hoped and will focus their charitable donations on larger scale efforts such as housing equity, computer science curriculum, food banks, disaster relief, and community giving. But, **THERE IS STILL TIME TO MAKE YOUR DONATIONS COUNT FOR TNP BEFORE AMAZONSMILE DISSOLVES ON FEBRUARY 20.** Click on the AmazonSmile image below to learn how your Amazon purchase can benefit TNP.

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That Newfoundland Place Inc. is a nonprofit corporation organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes. Specifically, this organization has been formed to prevent cruelty to animals. Our mission is to offer quality of life to senior dogs of various breeds, to assist in rescue, rehabilitation, and re-homing of dogs in need, with a focus on Newfoundland dogs, and to provide humane education as related to care and life quality. of animals. Cathy Derench, President Newsletter editor and publisher Joanna Dumas: joanna.l.dumas@gmail.com