

Newfie News



That
Newfoundland
Place
Rescue With A Heart

October 2023

VOLUME 5

ISSUE 2

Understanding Your Newf's Personality Traits Can Help with Their Training and Care

Each dog breed is generally pre-disposed to particular dispositions and trait. The Newfoundland is loved for their gentleness, friendliness, intelligence, and sweetness. Of course, each dog has his or her own personality as well; some can be quite active, others more mellow. Furthermore, dogs – and all animals – can also be introverts or extroverts.

As in humans, it is not “better” to be an introvert or extrovert, but it can help you to understand your dog’s behaviors better.

What does introverted and extroverted mean?

An introverted person feels more comfortable focusing inwardly, on their thoughts, ideas and imagination. Introverts are comfortable spending time with themselves or prefer being with one or two people or a small group. It is important to note that introvert is not synonymous with shy. Extroverts focus more on the outside world. They thrive in large groups of people, are gregarious and enjoy socializing.

Introversion and extroversion are personality traits that are a continuum and as with individuals, dogs can fall anywhere on that continuum. Animals and people with a balance of introversion and extroversion are called ambiverts. The trait is believed to remain relatively stable throughout an individual’s - or animal’s - life.

Factors in being an introvert or extrovert

As with humans, animals’ personality traits – including being introverted or extroverted – are a result of genetics and life experiences. For example, livestock guard dogs – think Great Pyrenees, Bernese Mountain Dog, and Tibetan Mastiff - are bred to protect the herd in the absence of humans. These breeds can be considered more independent or aloof. Other breeds work in close harmony with humans, such as retrievers and spaniels. They may be considered more outgoing, active, and alert.

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What's Inside

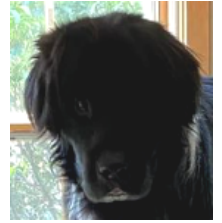
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Who's at TNP?

Kai is 4-year-old boy who is ready for his new home. He is currently in foster care with Faith Ferguson in Connecticut and will need a home with traditional fencing. Kai is good with older children. Watch for updates in future newsletters and the TNP Facebook page.



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

Three-year-old **Layla** was adopted in early May by Lisa and Bob Turiano of Bridgewater, New Jersey. "She's been a great addition to the family," Lisa said.



Layla top,
Xander bottom

Layla joins her 8-year-old Newf brother, Xander. According to Lisa, Layla has settled in quite well. She has a lot of energy, which balances Xander's mellow personality. And, she loves to play fetch, more than any other dog the Turiano's have had. Lisa said that Layla clicked right away with Xander. "They're inseparable."

Xander has earned his canine good citizen and Lisa's goal is for Layla to do the same and eventually become a therapy dog, after she completes basic obedience class. "She's very smart," Lisa said. Layla has been working with a trainer and has picked things up very quickly, such as waiting and not pawing.

Layla is the Turiano's third Newf and first rescue. Mia was their first Newfoundland. Then Stella the St. Bernard joined the family, and finally Xander when they brought him home as a puppy. The Turianos were ready for another Newf when Stella passed away. Stella's passing also affected Xander, as Lisa noted "he didn't know what to do with himself." They felt another dog would ease his grief. Lisa and Bob knew Nancy Weaver, a TNP foster mom, had some Newfs and they wanted to try rescuing an older Newf. It was a good decision. "Everybody adores [Layla]," Lisa said. "She's a sweet girl."



Xander left, Layla right



Fiona has been in her new home with Amy Partridge Barber and Ken Barber of Cape Elizabeth, Maine since July 28.

Amy describes Fiona as "Sweet and ladylike. Very delicate." Amy has discovered that Fiona loves to walk, her first Newfie to do so. Fiona appears very open to new adventures and is comfortable in many situations; she loves exploring downtown businesses and looks for treats in every store.

Fiona is also partial to belly rubs and the water. Amy and Ken often drive to a beach a mile

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Expert Excerpts

Skin Diseases and Inflictions

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

The skin is the largest organ in the body, so just like any other organ there are many diseases that can affect the skin. We've already discussed allergies, which in dogs typically manifest as skin itching and irritation, but there are a lot of other skin diseases not related to allergies. Skin disease is a very broad topic but I will touch on a few more things that affect the skin of our furry friends.

Parasites are a very common problem for dogs and cats. This includes fleas, ticks, and several types of mites. Some dogs are very sensitive to flea bites and a single bite can itch them all over and develop hair loss and rashes, whereas others are not so sensitive and may have multiple fleas and only be a little bit itchy. Ticks generally cause a focal reaction characterized by significant redness and inflammation at the tick bite. Demodex is a mange mite that lives normally in hair follicles in the skin of dogs. Some dogs, if immune compromised, can develop rashes secondary to Demodex.

Demodex is NOT contagious. Sarcoptic mange generally cause intense itching, usually starting on the belly, the elbows, and the margins of the ears but will spread over the entire body. The itching causes secondary bacterial infections so affected dogs could have scales and crust on their skin. Sarcoptic mange is contagious. Lice also cause intense itching but it is a more generalized condition and, in most cases, you can actually see the lice walking on the fur of the dog. They look like little flakes of dandruff. Lice is contagious. Fortunately, there are many effective treatment options for parasite control these days. Fleas are easy to diagnose because they are typically visible. As are ticks and lice. For sarcoptic mange and Demodex, a skin scrape is used to identify the mite. There is a new blood test to check for antibodies against

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Recently Adopted

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away so Fiona can go in the waves and wade. A recent trip to their cabin in Northern, Maine included daily walks to the river, much to the delight of Fiona who laid down in the water.



Fiona, who turned 5 in April, now has a Newf brother, Yogi, who turned 5 in May. "It's fun to watch the way they work out their relationship," Amy said. They get along well and enjoy playing tug of war but at times Yogi is still acclimating to his new sister, especially at bedtime when there is a competition to get the spot next to the bed first. Both Fiona and Yogi vie for Amy's



Yogi & Fiona

attention. With the Barber's two sons, a 25-year-old in Chicago, and a 21-year-old at college in New York, no longer at home, the dogs get plenty of attention.

The Barbers had been a Lab family until about 10 years ago when their son suggested a Newfoundland. After the family researched the breed, they agreed it was a good fit. They were all partial to big dogs. Their first Newf was Lucy in 2012, a puppy from a breeder in Maine. Yogi was added to the family in 2018, also from a breeder. Lucy passed away in March of 2023 at the age of 11.

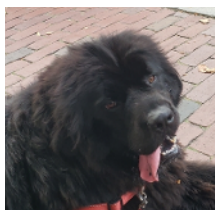
In her grief over losing Lucy, Amy began researching Newfoundland rescues, knowing that she didn't want a puppy but did want to get a playmate for Yogi, and for herself. When Amy saw the options for Newf rescue she knew that was the right choice. She felt a senior Newf would be a good choice because of the experience she

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Recently Adopted

Recently Adopted - Fiona continued from page 3

had with Lucy's health issues. In June, Amy reached out to Cathy at TNP, indicating that she was in no rush but wanted to submit an application. It didn't take long before she got the call about Fiona. "I feel really lucky," Amy said. "She's such a love."

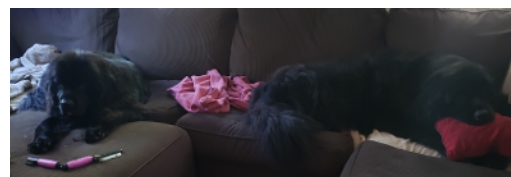


Peter Schuhknecht of Brewster, Massachusetts adopted 18-month-old **Delilah** on August 25. "She's phenomenal," Peter said. "I could not be happier with her."

Peter noted that Delilah has high energy needs. For the first two weeks they did two walks a day for a mile each time so Delilah could release energy. Peter has now started on a basic training regimen which they do in small increments.

Delilah has come a long way with leash behavior, but is still learning. Peter is working on both on Delilah's physical and mental needs so she can become the Newf she needs to be. He said he is trying to learn from Delilah to make the training better for both of them. So far, Peter has noticed that Delilah is independent. He hopes to start carting work with her – for fun – in about six months to a year.

TNP has been a great resource to Peter. He remarked that he has not had a puppy or adolescent dog for decades. He has been checking in with Cathy regularly on training and exercising for Delilah to avoid injuries.



Delilah left, Bowie right

Delilah joins 8-year-old Newf brother Bowie, whom Peter adopted from the New England Newfoundland Rescue and 14-year-old Shih Tzu/Poodle mix brother Archie. Bowie and Delilah are getting along well and play together supervised in the backyard. Delilah is gentle with Archie and cognizant of his size, but Archie is not interested in having a playmate, so they co-exist.



Archie and Delilah

Peter had a Newfoundland as a very young child and later raised Springer Spaniels with his mother, who was a foster mom with the New England Springer Spaniel rescue. Peter didn't have the lifestyle to accommodate a Newf until about 10 years ago, when he reached out to New England Newf Rescue to become a foster home because he wanted to help Newfs. Lori Bryant referred Peter to Cathy when Ceasar became available in 2014. When he was contacted, Peter thought the arrangement was for foster, but when he learned Ceasar needed a home, he went to TNP with Archie, who was the final decision maker in the adoption. Peter calls rescuing Ceasar one of the best decisions of his life. Ruby, another TNP rescue, was added to the family in 2016.

Ceasar passed away in 2019 at the age of 12 and a half. Peter lost Ruby a couple of months ago at age 13. "My own growth with these animals has been a wonderful journey," Peter said. "I allow dogs to be who they are without inflicting my expectations. It's such a joy to watch them be who they want to be."

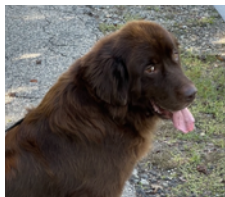
Five-year-old **Kona** is settling in with her new family, Jerry Kelly and Mary Kennedy of Auburndale, Massachusetts. Kona was adopted on September 12.

As each day passes, Kona becomes more confident and reveals more of her character and

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Recently Adopted

Recently Adopted - Kona continued from page 4



personality. "Kona is very friendly and has wonderful social skills," Jerry said. "She is quick to adapt to her new surroundings and she has a smart, alert way about her. She is gentle, patient and calm and has all the characteristics that make Newfoundland dogs special."

Jerry and Mary have discovered that Kona loves to walk. They live near a large park and conservation area, where Kona enjoys sniffing all the smells, and meeting other dogs and people. She has not shown an interest in playing with toys or exploring the water yet, but Jerry is confident her interests will expand as she becomes more comfortable. "I think if she saw other dogs playing or in the water, she would join them," he said. They are trying to give Kona, who was rescued from a puppy mill, more experiences, most recently the farmer's market.

Kona is Jerry and Mary's 9th Newf. Their first was acquired as a puppy in 1974. Their most recent Newf, Alien, passed away in July at age 11. All of their Newfs have been puppies from a breeder with the exception of one that they took in at about 3 months old, the brother of the Newf that they had at the time. The dog had some medical problems that the previous owners did not want to take on. Not wanting another puppy, Jerry and Mary thought rescue would be a good choice and found TNP online when they wanted another Newf.

Kona is by far their smallest Newf, at 74 pounds. Most of their other dogs were very large – up to 170 pounds. Jerry and Mary are working on building up Kona's appetite with nutritional food to gain some weight.

Jerry has been intrigued by Newfoundlands since he read "Mascot of the Melroy" by Keith Robertson, which recounts the story of a Newfoundland puppy that became the mascot of a US destroyer in World War II. Seeing the breed in person at a Boston dog show years later cemented his love for Newfs. "That was it," Jerry said.

Being empty nesters and Kona being the only pet, Jerry and Mary can devote their time to her, which has paid off. "She's really opened up," Jerry said. "She's more active, has more energy. Her eye's sparkle. It's really nice to see." Mary noted the difference Kona has made in their lives too. "We consider ourselves fortunate to have Kona come live with us. It's a wonderful experience to get to know her."



Understanding Your Newf's Personality Traits continued from page 1

Other factors that influence a dog's temperament include: The amount and quality of early socialization as well as ongoing socialization, their environment, and amount of daily exercise.

Of course, dogs can also display traits of both extroversion and introversion in various situations. These traits can be context specific such as guarding food or playing with a new toy with friends.

Is your Newf an introvert or extrovert?

To identify if your dog is an introvert or extrovert, consider their unique preferences and comfort level in various situations. Sometimes the behavior can be subtle so pay close attention to body language. What does your dog do in social situations such as at the dog park

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or a walk in the neighborhood? Are they interested in meeting every human and dog or are they content to sniff on their own and stay by your side?

If your dog prefers to watch dogs and people from a distance rather than joining the action, they may be introverted. Other behaviors include:

- Enjoys a small group of familiar dog friends to play with
- Is quiet, reserved or suspicious of unfamiliar people or situations, yet playful with familiar dogs and people
- Tires faster than other dogs in an overly active environment
- Becomes easily overstimulated, overwhelmed, or anxious in new situations
- Thrives on structure and routine; Predictability helps them feel safe
- Is a Velcro dog – always by your side – in social situations

Conversely, if your Newf loves being the center of attention and insists on meeting every human and dog he encounters, he's an extrovert. Other behaviors include:

- Boundless energy to play
- Enthusiastically meets new people
- Frequent vocalization
- Enjoys new and novel situations; get bored easily
- Initiates play
- Might be described as fun, silly, and friendly, or possibly hyperactive

Caring for your introverted dog

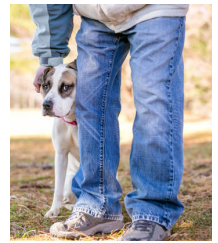
Recognizing the types of situations that can cause stress and anxiety for your introverted dog can help you remove them from the situation or avoid them. Don't force them to interact with dogs or people if they are showing signs of discomfort. Let your dog set the pace. Be sure to provide your dog with quiet time and calm activities every day in a safe place such as a bed, crate, or favorite spot in the house.

Your introverted dog still needs exercise and mental stimulation, so have regular playdates with a canine friend or small group of dogs. Interactive puzzle toys or learning a new trick provide stimulation without the overactive environment.

Caring for your extroverted dog

Setting boundaries, consistency, and training will benefit the extroverted dog that presents as "overexcited." This will make for smoother interactions with people and other dogs. Work on basic manners, impulse control, and greeting skills.

Exercise and mental stimulation are also critical to extroverted dogs but will look different than it does for introverted dogs. You may need to take multiple long walks each day with lots of opportunities to meet people and other dogs. Switch up the locale so they don't get bored. Let them visit new places and have new experiences. Swimming, fetch, and a game of chase are also great exercise. Provide lots of games, toys and other entertainment to keep your Newf mentally busy.



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Your Dog's Needs

The most important thing is to understand and accept your dog for who she is. Don't try to make your introverted dog a social butterfly and don't keep your extroverted dog in his crate all the time with little social interaction. Ultimately either situation will create a stressed and unhappy dog. Understanding your Newf's limitations and strengths will also help you gain insight into their training to make it successful for everyone.



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It is our job to love our dogs and keep them safe. Providing activities and situations that appeal to our dog's unique personality will do just that.

Resources/more information:

<https://vitapet.com/au/vitapet-central/articles/is-my-dog-an-introvert-or-extrovert/#:~:text=It's%20important%20to%20acknowledge%20that,their%20food%20or%20favourite%20bed>).

<https://www.usadogbehavior.com/blog/2022-7-20-is-your-dog-introverted-or-extroverted#:~:text=The%20Short%20Answer%20is%20%E2%80%9CNo,deemed%20better%20than%20the%20other>.

<https://www.cbc.ca/life/pets/what-if-your-shy-dog-is-actually-just-an-introvert-1.4935921#:~:text=Especially%20after%20I%20learned%20that,way%20down%20to%20fruit%20flies>.

<https://www.petmd.com/dog/behavior/introverted-dogs>

<https://topdogtips.com/can-dogs-be-introverts-or-extroverts/>

<https://www.thisdogslife.co/can-dogs-be-introverts/>

Help Your Introverted Dog Feel Less Stress

Your introverted Newf may feel more stress than other dogs, but these tips can help both of you navigate the world.

1. Set the Tone

If you notice your dog is uncomfortable in a situation, speak calmly and in a soft voice with slow, steady movements. Continue to observe your dog's body language to determine their comfort level.

2. Be an Advocate

Let your dog set the pace for interactions with others. If meeting new people and dogs is not enjoyable, intervene before the meeting takes place. There's no shame in saying your dog is uncomfortable meeting new people or dogs and needs a little extra space.

3. Be Positive

Positive reinforcement training will help your dog gain the confident she needs to be more comfortable in new and challenging experiences.



Sarcoptes because the mite is hard to find in skin scrapes and false negative scrapes are common.

Dermatophytosis, often referred to as ringworm, is a fungal infection that can infect dogs. It is much more common in cats. Typically, you'll see a circular area of hair loss that is often red and inflamed along the edges. The amount of itching is variable. Dermatophytosis is contagious. When a dog has a bacterial skin infection, they often develop something called epidermal collarettes which are circular in nature, with crust and scales along the edges. To many people it looks like ringworm but it is actually a bacterial infection. Dogs can also develop yeast infections on their skin. Yeast infections are rarely primary, more typically they are secondary to chronic inflammation of the skin most commonly from allergies. Dermatophytosis is diagnosed by culturing some of the hair; there are also new blood tests used to identify the presence of dermatophytes.

Next month: Autoimmune conditions and hotspots

Halloween Can Be a Frightful Night for your Newf

Halloween can be a fun night for humans and a dream come true for children who run from house to house to have candy dropped into their sack. But for your dog, Halloween can be turn out to be the scary experience you read about in a Stephen King novel.

Dogs read facial expressions and body language to interpret what humans are feeling. Faces that are disguised in masks, makeup, and costumes can cause confusion or a sense of overwhelm. While your extroverted dog may thrive in the constant parade of costume clad kids at the door, your introverted dog may be stressed. And the doorbell ringing and door knocking can cause any dog to react due to their sensitive ears.

If you go out trick-or-treating, your Newf may be triggered by being home alone with loud, unfamiliar noises they hear outside. A good way to reduce stress is to create a safe spot for your dog whether you're handing out candy or traipsing the neighborhood with your own children. You can also give your dog a supplement to ease their stress such as chamomile, valerian root, or ginger. You may also want to consider having a family member or familiar friend help out by staying with your Newf to distract them and ease their anxiety.

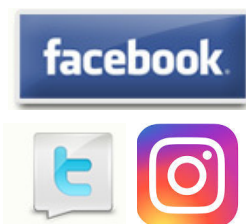
Many holidays are a time of joy and fun for humans. A little forethought on how our canine family members may react to the festivities during holidays will ensure they are also having an enjoyable experience.



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<https://www.americanexpress.com/en-us/banking/round-up/frequently-asked-questions/>

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