

Newfie News



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ISSUE 8

You Can Have a Healthy Lawn *and* a Happy Newf

After the bare winter months, we look forward to the growth that spring brings, including our lawn. The green grass slowly emerges from the brown, signifying warmer temperatures and longer days. If you have a dog, however, it can be challenging to keep the lawn healthy and green throughout the summer. With a few tips you can have both a happy dog and an envious lawn.

Dogs have high levels of urea, a form of nitrogen in their urine, which kills grass. The nitrogen results from digesting proteins, which make up a large part of most dogs' diets. The high levels are safe for your dog, but not so much for your grass. Small amounts of nitrogen actually fertilize the lawn, but larger amounts in a smaller area – you know the spot(s) where your Newf likes to go – will burn the grass, often causing it to turn brown, the same way it does when it hasn't rained for a month or from a lawn fungus. Note that feces also contains high levels of nitrogen and if it is left to break down in the lawn can also kill the grass. Pick it up and dispose of it as soon as possible to minimize damage.

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First TNP Open House of 2024 on April 14

Meet with TNP rescue staff, adopters, and folks interested in learning about Newfoundlands at the first Open House of the year on April 14, from Noon to 3pm.

Other Open House dates include:

June 2
July 21
August 25

Applications for adoption and great information on the breed will be on hand, as well as pizza and soft drinks. Some of the dogs available for adoption may be on site to meet as well. Dogs are not adopted during an Open House; they are meet and greet events only.

*The TNP Annual Reunion and Fundraiser is tentatively scheduled for **October 6**.*

All well behaved, leashed dogs are welcome to attend events, but be mindful of extreme heat.

Events are held rain or shine at 554 Pucker St, Coventry, Connecticut and are free to attend.

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

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Who's at TNP?

Five-year-old Koko arrived at TNP in late February due to owner illness. This sweet charcoal gray girl was in foster care with Nancy Weaver in New Jersey but will be available to meet at the Open House. She has been spayed and vetted. 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

Goliath, now Orion, was adopted by Faith Ferguson of Connecticut in February after bringing him in as a foster on February 9.

Faith reports that Orion is holding steady to the 3 days, 3 weeks, 3 months rule: The first 3 days the dog is feeling overwhelmed and nervous, the first 3 weeks the dog is settling in, and the first 3 months the dog is building trust and bonding. "He now understands that he's home here with me and learning the routine," Faith said. Orion is now starting to push the boundaries a bit. "He learned how to open the drawer and get people food," Faith said. Aside from being quite smart, Faith called Orion persistent.

So far Faith has learned that 3-year-old Orion is very interested in other animals. There are lots of other dogs and squirrels in the neighborhood that grab his attention. Faith started basic obedience class with Orion the first week in April. "I think we'll both benefit," Faith said. Orion already knows "sit" and "down," but needs to work on his leash manners. Faith has been practicing with him in the backyard.

Faith has about 30 years of Newfoundland experience. One dog was from a breeder, and the other four or five were from rescue: breeder rescue, animal shelter and breed rescue, including three from TNP. The first was a Golden Retriever/Newfoundland mix. Faith found she enjoyed having a large dog and has had Newfs or Newf mixes ever since. Female Murphy was her most recent Newf mix, who passed away a couple of years ago.

Since then, Faith has become a foster home with TNP, taking in Blue and Kai for about 6 months each. "Fostering has been a wonderful experience for me," she said. "The dogs need one on one attention. It's wonderful to spend time with them." Both Blue and Kai are flourishing in their families. "You get so many warm fuzzies seeing them thrive in their new family and making the people happy," Faith said. "It's tremendously rewarding." For now, Faith is focusing on her relationship with Orion, but hopes to be able to foster again in the future.

"It's nice to feel that you are trusted enough that you can help the dog," she said.



The time with Orion, who is Faith's only pet, had been all that Faith had hoped. "He's like a jelly donut - very soft and very sweet," she said. Orion loves being brushed, which is a bonus for Faith as he has a massive coat. It also helps with bonding. "I feel so lucky Cathy offered me this dog," she said.

Expert Excerpts

By Dr. Lauren Flanagan
Pepperell (MA) Veterinary Hospital

ACL Injuries: Causes and Treatment

Cranial cruciate ligament injury is a very common orthopedic problem in dogs, particularly large, active dogs. The cranial cruciate is a ligament that crosses from the back of the thigh bone, through the knee joint, to attach to the front of the shin bone and prevents abnormal forward rocking motion of the knee when an animal walks. When the ligament is injured, either strained or torn, the knee becomes unstable, which causes pain and discomfort, and eventually leads to arthritis in the affected joint.

Commonly the causes of ligament injury include trauma, overuse with repetitive activity, and degenerative disease. Excessive weight and genetics contribute to ligament injury, as does overuse secondary to an injury in the other leg. In fact, a large percentage of canine patients who tear one cruciate already have damage to the other side, or will likely tear it as well within the next few years.

Surgical stabilization of the knee is the treatment of choice for cruciate ligament injury. Some smaller, more sedentary dogs can be managed with rest and pain medication but large active dogs almost always require surgery. There are knee braces available but are usually intended for short term use to keep the knee stable until surgery.

Next month: Surgical options and postoperative care

You Can Have a Healthy Lawn and a Happy Newf
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If you aren't certain where your dog relieves himself in your yard, how can you tell if the brown or yellow spots (which means the grass is dying) is from urine? You may see a ring of extra healthy dark green grass around the brown or yellow ring. This is the result of the less concentrated nitrogen spreading outward and actually fertilizing the edges of the circle of dead grass. If you notice dark green patches in your lawn, it's likely that these are new spots where your Newf is relieving himself. In this case, your lawn isn't getting enough nitrogen, so they are using the supply your canine provided as fertilizer. But you can bet it won't be long before they turn to yellow and brown if your dog continues make this a new "spot," which they tend to do.

Another sign is dead or dying grass that doesn't pull up easily when it is yanked. Dog urine doesn't affect grass roots, so they remain strong, but grass damaged from grubs or fungus will be dying from the roots up and can be easily removed.

You may have heard that a female's urine is more damaging to a lawn than a male, but this is not true. Both have the same chemical makeup. It may seem like your female Newf is creating more brown spots on your lawn than your male Newf, but it's because females squat, which causes the urine to be more concentrated in one area, and they are usually closer to the ground than males, who are more likely relieve themselves in smaller amounts over several areas of the lawn.

Fixing the brown spots

Unfortunately, once the grass has turned brown, it is dead and is not going to come back to life. You will need to remove the burned grass and flush the area well with water to remove any left over concentrated nitrogen. You can then re-seed the area, or if it is small, the surrounding healthy grass may eventually grow into the bare space. Keep people and pets away from newly seeded areas away to allow them to germinate and establish strong roots. Let the grass grow and mow it three to four times before you allow dog or people traffic.

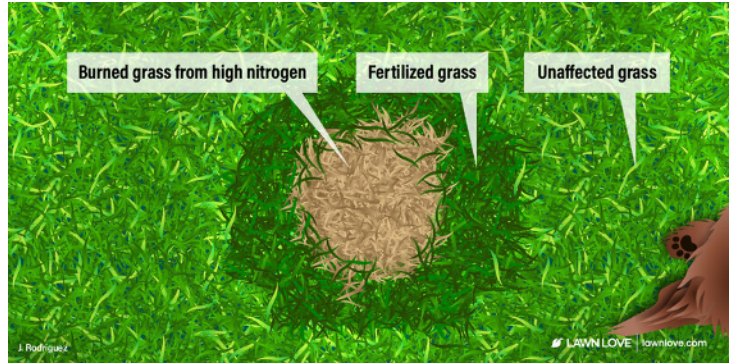
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If the grass is yellow, it is not dead yet and you may be able to save it. Try adding a cup of baking soda to a gallon of water and pour it into the affected grass. The solution neutralizes the high concentration of nitrogen.

Prevention is the best way to keep your lawn healthy

Naturally, your dog needs to urinate, but there are some things you can do to stop urine damage on your lawn.



© Lawn Love

Changing your dog's diet will change nitrogen levels. Your dog needs protein in her diet to be healthy, but different kinds of protein contain different levels of nitrogen. Processed proteins from commercial foods have higher nitrogen content than proteins from fresh food. You can make your dog's food yourself or purchase fresh dog foods from the grocery or pet store. Always discuss with your veterinarian before you make major changes to your dog's diet.

Increasing water intake will decrease the concentration of nitrogen in your Newf's urine as well. Of course you can't force them to drink, but you can place more water bowls inside (and outside in warmer weather) or add water to their meals.

Other ideas to reduce urine damage:

- Thoroughly water where your dog urinates immediately after they're done with a hose to dilute the urine. The area should be soaked with water to flush the nitrogen.
- Train your dog to urinate in a designated "grassless" spot. An area that has natural wood mulch, pea stone, or ground cover will be easier to maintain and be soft on your Newf's paws.
- Walk your dog in the neighborhood to do his "business." Just be sure you aren't causing brown spots on your neighbor's lawn.
- Raise the mowing height. This will make the grass less sensitive. Taller grass has more established roots and a better chance of surviving urine burn.
- Use a more urine resistant grass type. Keep in mind that warm-season grasses typically recover from dog urine damage better than cool-season grasses. Fescue and Bermuda grass are the best choices in cooler climates. Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass are also good options.

If you regularly fertilize your grass, don't do it in areas where your Newf urinates, or do it less than on other areas of the lawn.

If damage is extensive, you may want to hire a professional to re-seed your yard, but be mindful of the chemical ingredients in fertilizers, weed killers, and pesticides.

Of course, if you own pets, it might be a good idea to let go of the "perfect" lawn. Yet, with a little work you can still have healthy grass and soil, and a happy Newf.

Resources/more information:

<https://lawnlove.com/blog/dog-pee-kills-grass/>

<https://www.tripswithpets.com/twp-blog/healthy-lawn-healthy-pet-can-you-have-both-how-to-keep-your-lawn-weed-free-toxin-free-green>

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<https://lawnlove.com/blog/how-high-should-your-grass-be-cut/>
<https://buyturfonline.com.au/prevent-dog-pee-killing-grass/>

Find the ideal mowing height for a dog-friendly lawn for the most common grass types:

Grass type	Ideal mowing height for a dog-friendly lawn
Centipede	2 inches
Common Bermuda	2 inches
Hybrid Bermuda	1.5 inches
St. Augustine	3 inches
Zoysiagrass	2 inches
Creeping red fescue	3.5 inches
Kentucky bluegrass	3.5 inches
Perennial ryegrass	2.5 inches
Tall Fescue	3 inches
Bahiagrass	4 inches
Buffalo	3 inches

Know What's In Your Lawn Treatment

The chemicals in lawn treatments and pesticides can be dangerous to your canine. Chemical residue remains after grass dries. If your dog plays, rolls, or runs around the lawn, then licks his paws or his fur, he can ingest it. Toxins can accumulate in a pet's body over each lawn treatment, leading to illness later on.

Skin exposure can cause swelling, irritation, and allergies. If your Newf happens to eat grass treated with chemicals the results can be upset stomach, vomiting, seizures, nerve damage, liver and kidney disease, cancer, and even death.

Research homemade weed killers and lawn treatments for safer options or consider organic options in stores.

Your Newf Will Thank You on Dog Parent Appreciation Day



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April 19 is National Dog Parent Appreciation Day, and the one who is most grateful for you is your dog. How do they say "thank you" to us every day?

Lots Of Kisses

Yes, those licks from your Newf are a form of kisses. Licking is a natural instinct, one of the first behaviors puppies learn from their mom.

These kisses mean your dog loves you and is showing gratitude. You likely see the same behavior when you do something your dog likes, such as treats, walks or playing. Kisses strengthen the bond with your dog and the bond between canines.

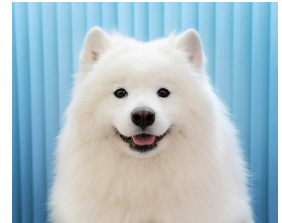
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Tail Wagging

We've all seen a dog that has a tail wagging a mile a minute. It is a sure sign that the dog is excited or happy. If your dog's tail wags the second you walk in the door, he is expressing his gratitude for you coming home – even if it is five minutes after you left. Your dog has probably also wagged her tail after you gave her a treat, or you played a game with her. She is thanking you for giving her what she likes or for spending time and being there with her.

Smiling

You may have caught your dog smiling when he is extremely happy and relaxed. His lips are pulled back and teeth are showing. His eyes are also bright and happy. This is a sign your Newf is grateful. You may see it when you're rubbing your Newf's belly or other favorite spot. Any dog can smile but it can be especially common and noticeable on Samoyeds.



Smiling Samoyed
©istock

Cuddling

Humans hug for many reasons, including love, safety, gratitude, and protection. The same reasons hold true for cuddling with dogs. When your Newf has Velcro behavior – always wanting to be close to and touching you - it's a form of cuddling and an expression of gratitude. Cuddling is an excellent way to increase the human-canine bond.

Being Protective

Dogs are pack animals and you are the leader of the pack. Thousands of years of instinct tell them that their survival is connected to survival of the pack. When she is barking searching out the window for perceived “predators,” barking at unfamiliar noises, or running to the door when the doorbell rings, she is protecting you from possible danger and threats. And saying “thank you for protecting me. I've got your back too.”

Showing Unconditional Love

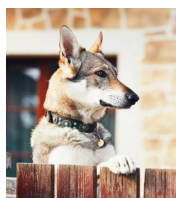
Dogs can feel your emotions and are there to make you feel better no matter how bad your day was or what you are feeling. If your Newf has ever come to your side when you are sad or upset, he is showing you that he loves you and cares about you. This is also a form of gratitude towards you if you show unconditional love and kindness to him too.

Vying For Your Attention

Dogs love positive attention and praise from their people. If you ignore them, they try to grab your attention by vocalizing or physical touch. Paying attention to your dog cultivates gratitude for both of you. Spending time with your Newf is what matters most when creating strong bonds.

Of course, dogs can't verbally express gratitude but there are many ways they show it to us every day. It is often reflected in their gentle gaze and body language. Your dog may actually be saying “thank you” the next time you witness the following:

- Barking
- Guarding
- Being alert
- Jumping up



Dog guarding ©istock

Your Newf Will Thank You on

Dog Parent Appreciation Day continued from page 6

- Panting
- Tail up
- Ears up

Beside you, there are many things that your dog is thankful for, including

- Treats & food
- Toys
- Walks
- Playtime
- Comfortable spots around the house
- Your touch - belly rubs, chin scratches, etc.

Being observant of your dog's gratitude will likely increase your own and can lead to an overall happier life.

Resources/more information:

<https://www.tlcpettransport.com/how-do-dogs-say-thank-you-signs-and-behaviors/>
<https://www.nationaldayarchives.com/day/national-dog-parent-appreciation-day/#:~:text=National%20Dog%20Parent%20Appreciation%20Day%20%2F%20Apr%2019>

If you show your dog gratitude, you will likely get some in return. Ways to do that – and increase your bond – include:

- Spend time together
- Play games
- Teach basic obedience or tricks
- Go for walks and hikes
- Go swimming
- Car rides
- Lots of verbal praise
- Snuggle time and physical affection
- Tell your dog you love him

Show Some Love To Your Veterinary Team On World Veterinary Day

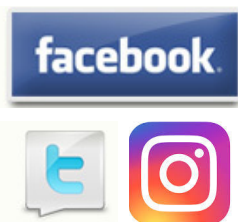
Veterinarians and their staff do so much to keep our Newf - and all our pets - healthy so we can enjoy them for as long as possible. From routine well check exams to vaccines, and spay or neuter surgeries to help control the pet population to life saving surgery for bloat or cancer, these every day superheroes care about our Newfs almost as much as we do and truly want them to lead their best lives. Show some appreciation for your vet team on World Veterinary Day on April 30 with a heartfelt thank you or a hug.



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Amex Round-up

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

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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*