

Newfie News



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ISSUE 1

Celebrating a Legend

It was a perfect summer day to celebrate the life and legacy of Cathy Derench, co-president of That Newfoundland Place.

The set-up and decor of the event was a just tribute to a woman who dedicated her life to animals in need, particularly her beloved Newfoundland dogs. Most people say they would like to help animals but Cathy's spirit of dedication and kindness put those words into action, creating a non-profit to assist animals and their owners. Cathy and husband Ed also created the ideal setting on their Coventry, Connecticut farm, which has taken over 40 years to create the sanctuary that it is today, with it's showpiece swimming pond that was built for Newfs (and any dog that loves to swim).

Guests crossed a beautiful Rainbow Bridge with live flowers and Cathy's cheerful voice broadcast, giving encouragement to a dog or speaking to a loved one.



Cathy's name shined brightly in lights, indicating the superstar she was. The walkway then opened up to a table to share a memory or story of Cathy, and for a donation, guests could have a hoodie, proclaiming they



were part of "Cathy's Crew." Yellow blankets, yellow bandanas, and black drool bibs of "Cathy's Crew" were available for the Newfs and other dogs Cathy helped. Over a hundred people enjoyed the drinks, barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs, pies and cookies, opportunity to have a water color portrait or their dog, and sharing stories of how Cathy touched their lives.

Several guests spoke of Cathy's impact on their lives and the lives of others, including host Melissa Carbone, Cathy and Ed's daughter. "Kindness was her Northern star. It was her compass in life," Melissa said. "Thank you for loving my mom. Thank you for being her village."



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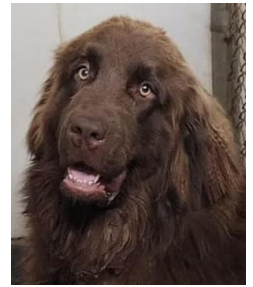
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Who's At TNP?

Sarah was recently vetted and is now looking for a new home. This 9-month old girl was surrendered due to family illness. She is good with other dogs, but unknown with cats and children. She can only be placed in a home with male dogs or as an only dog. Check the TNP Facebook page and future newsletters for updates.

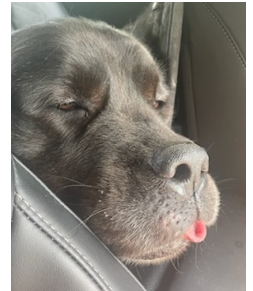


Interested in adopting from TNP?

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

Five-year-old Koko found a new home with Lisa and Tim White of Warrington, Pennsylvania. "She's adjusted very well to the family and routine," Lisa said. "She seems really happy." Lisa and Tim have three adult children, a 25-year-old and 23-year-old twins, who have been helping Koko get acclimated.



Tim had a Newf before he met Lisa and they both enjoy the breed. Koko is the White's fourth Newf together and third rescue, but their first from TNP. Their first Newf was Connor, whom they got in Colorado many years ago from someone in the oil industry who was relocating and couldn't take him. They moved around a bit for Tim's work and eventually settled back in Pennsylvania and researched Newf rescues and adopted Buffi from New-Penn-Del Newfoundland Club. When they wanted to adopt again, New-Penn-Del didn't have any available dogs, but referred them to Bear in Mind, a breeder in Chesapeake, Maryland where they got their last Newf, Coco. She passed away a little over a year ago at age 11.

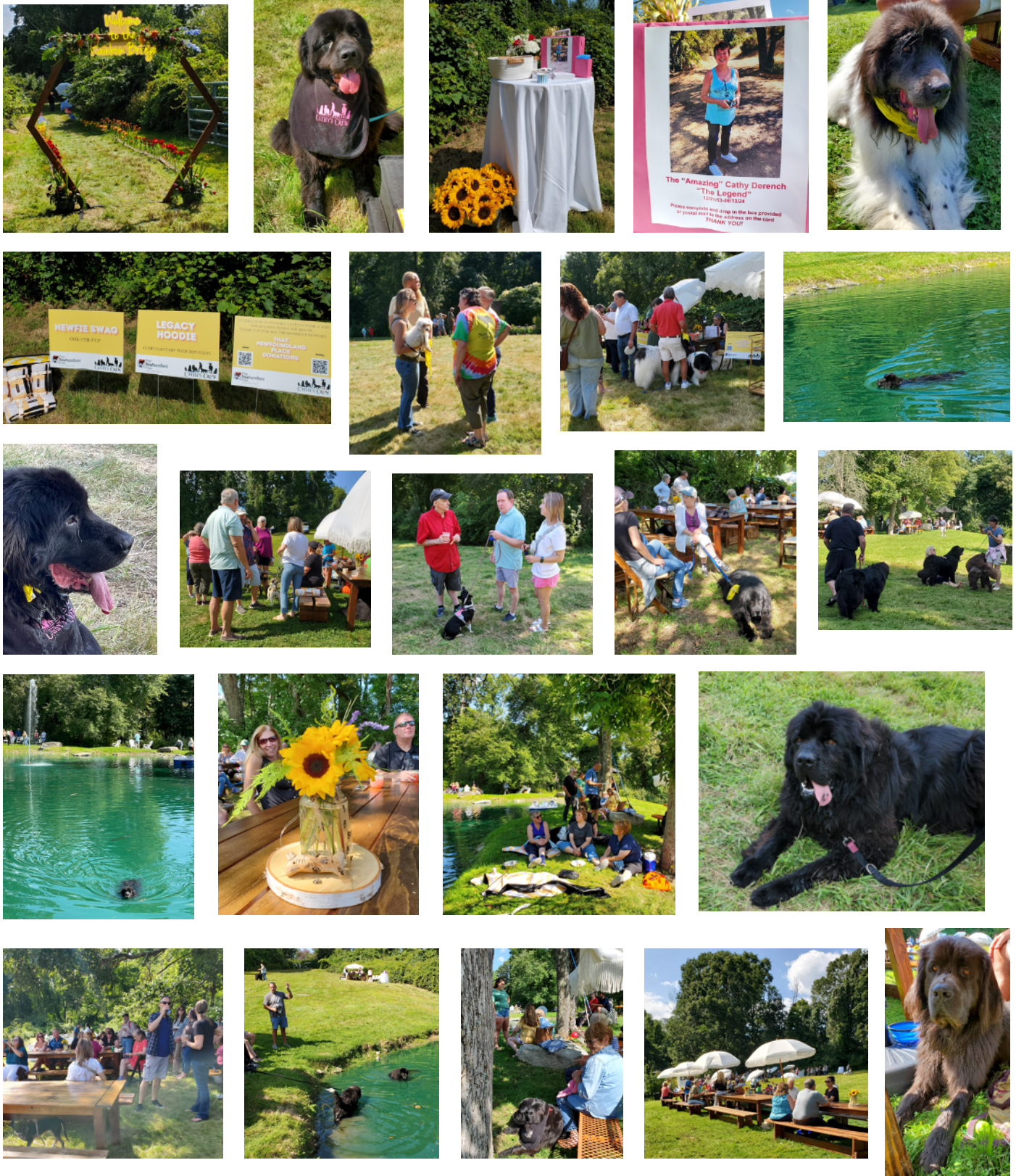
The White's weren't sure they would get another Newfoundland after they lost Coco, but Lisa attended Newfie Palooza in Pennsylvania and "got the bug." Tim had been doing a little research on his own on the New-Penn-Del website where he came across a link to the TNP website and a picture of Koko. They attended the Open House in July where they met the TNP staff. "We loved everybody and the dogs," Lisa said. "I really connected with Koko." They made the trip back to TNP a few weeks later to adopt her.

Lisa and Tim were active in water rescue with Coco, who was certified, but have found that Koko likes to take life a bit easier; sleeping on the couch or chair is her favorite activity. But they don't mind the change of pace. "All she wants to do is be petted," Lisa said. "It's so relaxing for me. She's such a loving dog."

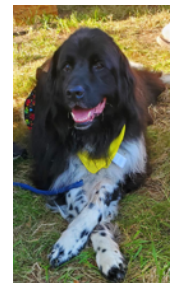
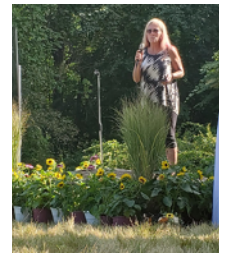
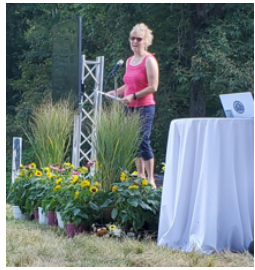
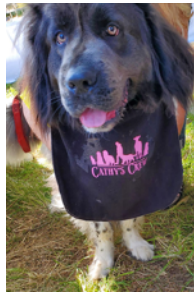
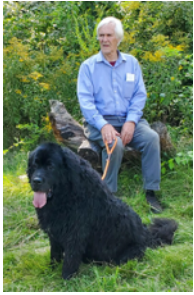


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A legacy fund has been created to honor Cathy's extraordinary life, called Cathy's Crew. "We're going to make That Newfoundland Place stronger than ever to make my mom proud, Melissa said." Cathy's heart would have been bursting with pride and love at the tributes that were showered on her.



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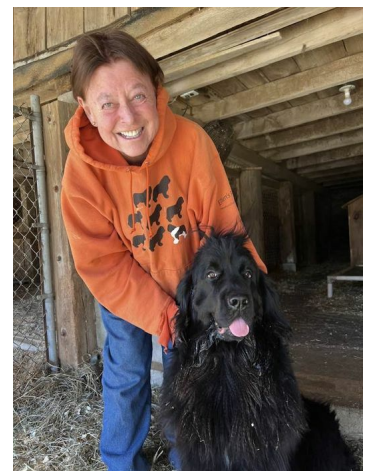


Anyone who met or spoke with Cathy likely has a story of her dedication, kindness, and unwavering spirit. Many were shared at the Celebration of Life, and others were gathered from members of her Newfoundland community who could not be in attendance. A sample of the tributes follow.

From Lesley Tompkins (from Facebook)

I want to relate a story about our first visit to Pucker St. This is when it was just Mountainview Newfoundlands. TNP didn't yet exist. We had decided we wanted a Newf, and we went from dog show to dog show looking at the dogs, talking to breeders and handlers. We were most impressed with Cathy and Linus. He was gorgeous and she was amazing. Her devotion to the dogs was evident in an instant. We saw her at several shows and told her we'd love to have one of her dogs. After asking us some basic screening questions, she said, "I'll let you know when a litter is available." More than a year when by as we periodically reminded her of our interest. We were losing hope of ever getting a pup from her when the call came to come up to Connecticut to view a litter. We drove up and Cathy invited us into her kitchen. She said it was a long drive for us, so she got us a pizza. Then she told us to dig in and left the room. Almost immediately she was replaced by a particularly large and drooly Newf who put his front paws up on the picnic bench seat and then draped himself over my shoulder, completely soaking me with slime. I just laughed and told him if he wanted to get my pizza he was going to have to do better than that. Looking back on it, I'm sure it was a test. I'm sure she was close by, observing to see how we'd react to the giant, drooly animal and when we just laughed and cuddled him, that was it. We passed. We got our first Newf, Mountainview's Tugboat Annie, from that litter and then three more in succession as well as one rescue in the years to come. We loved Cathy and Ed and everything about Mountainview Newfs, and when she started TNP we never missed an event or the opportunity to contribute in some way to their efforts.

The other thing I want to say here is that I have given a great deal of thought to what it was that was so extraordinarily special about Cathy. To know her was to experience a veritable force of nature. When she passed, it was, to me, as if a bit of the light drained from the universe. And I think I know why. I have met many people who were full of energy and ambition over the course of my life. Few with as much as Cathy, but some who were close. No obstacle was too great for them to overcome. They were constantly looking for ways to succeed regardless of the sacrifices that were entailed or how many hours they'd have to put in to achieve their goals. All of them but Cathy had one thing in common. They were working for themselves. Their own wealth, their own power. Cathy was that rarest of people who would do all of that and more on behalf of a cause that was more likely to bankrupt her, at least monetarily. She loved the dogs and her many other rescued animals unreservedly, with the purest of motives. She simply wanted to be of service to animals who were, themselves, helpless. She was driven to do this work. I think you could go through several lifetimes without ever meeting anyone like her and I feel so privileged to have known her and counted her as a friend. She may not have earned any money from TNP, but she was the richest person I ever met. I will miss her forever.



From Cathe Archer

I am truly flooding with emotions and at a loss for words with the passing of such an "amazing" friend.

To Ed, Melissa, the dedicated volunteers of That Newfoundland Place and a nationwide network of Newfoundland rescues and countless friends, I can only hope each day brings comfort in memories of Cathy. And to all.....

"May God grant us the wisdom to discover the right, the will to choose it and the strength to make it endure."*

.....to carry on the legacy of That Newfoundland Place in honor of "The Amazing" Cathy Derench.

*Quote from King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table

From John Cornell

I wish I was able to be with you all today. The loss of a great and supportive friend is always difficult. I do remember so many good times and visits I had with Cathy. So many dogs were saved by this "amazing" lady.

The Newfoundland Breed and the whole canine community owe Cathy and Ed so much for all their hard work. How Cathy and Ed have done all this work for so many years is beyond comprehension. If I had a question about a situation, I could always call Cathy and get a straight answer. She just wanted to help the dogs! Her own were so important to her as well. That is how she built her network of great people.

On a couple of occasions, I helped Cathy close backyard breeders to help get some of these people to stop breeding. It was "amazing" how Cathy could handle some of these people. When she finished, they wanted us to take the dogs. Cathy just had a talent for that sort of thing.

I will relate a story that has always stayed with me. There was a brown Newf in Vermont, a short distance from my home. Cathy and I talked, and I was to pick up this dog at 8:00 on a Saturday. I was on time to pick up the dog, and they arrived on time as well. We went to a bar that the dog owner had a share in. The dog stayed locked in a back room. We negotiated until about midnight, and he said, "Well I just cannot let him go." We talked for a while longer, and at 3 am he decided to relinquish the dog to me. The dog was labeled a biter, and Cathy and I had decided we would assess the boy to determine his temperament. I had a minivan at the time, and he would not go in a crate ready for him. The dog was put loose in the van so as not to aggravate him, and I left before the folks had a chance to change their minds again. We were off for our 6-hour trip to Coventry. The boy climbed over the seat and sat in the passenger's seat and just laid down and slept most of the way. I arrived at Cathy and Ed's about 10 am, and they met me at the gate. We put a collar on the dog and got him out of the van. He was wagging his tail. We did a quick evaluation, and the dog was great.

Cathy said, "Come in, I have breakfast for you and a place to rest." She gave me a very nice breakfast and a nice place to take a nap before I started on my trip back home. That is who

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Cathy was. She provided for her friends. She took care of Newfoundland Dogs.

I have been so lucky to have been very close friends with Cathy. Being around Cathy one could learn a lot. The love she had for the Newfoundland and her friends was contagious. The peace of mind she provided when people were in need was very "amazing" and a great inspiration to me.

I know so many will miss her as I will. The one thing I have from Cathy that I will always cherish are the memories.....she was "amazing."

From Lori Bryant

I first met Cathy Derench about 20 years ago at a TNP Open House. I was in awe of what I saw. Not only were there Newfoundlands but a menagerie of other rescued animals. My plan was to talk to Cathy and adopt a Newfoundland. Eventually the woman with a beautiful, warm smile who had been working the crowd was introduced to me. I told Cathy I would like to adopt a Newfoundland to which she asked me one question, "Do we have your application?" The answer was NO, and that was the end of the conversation. Cathy was off to work the crowd.

The next couple of years I actively participated in the world of working Newfoundlands. It was during this time I was given the opportunity to help with a rescue dog that was struggling. I agreed to take incoming calls for rescue with the understanding I could call upon a select group of people to answer questions that might come up. My first call came in to surrender a Newf suffering from a contagious condition. The best advice I received was to call Cathy Derench of That Newfoundland Place. I still had not submitted my adoption application.

I called Cathy, my voice quivering a bit. Once she knew why I was calling, she was so responsive. She was actually with Melissa at the time on the west coast but still took my call. My fear immediately turned to relief. That call started a relationship between Cathy and I that grew and grew. Cathy had become my mentor. My dream of rescuing Newfoundlands came true because of Cathy's willingness to work with me. Cathy was so smart! She taught me nearly every aspect of rescue.....the good, the bad, the happy, the sad. She did it without drama and judgment. She knew the questions to ask of people looking to surrender or adopt and how to interpret what they were actually saying.

We collaborated on all facets of rescue operations. It was a good feeling when Cathy would call me for help. She was totally dedicated and passionate to the nonprofit organization she created in That Newfoundland Place. Cathy handpicked a great team of professionals and volunteers that I was fortunate to be introduced to and work with many of them. Every rescued animal was given the medical and physical attention it deserved by this team, and some rescues had amazing and intriguing stories to go along with them. When I'd asked Cathy if they were real stories, she responded with her enthusiastic, "A-Yeeeeeaaah."

We had many late-night telephone conversations during a period we both were care providers for family members. I didn't realize it then but I now know Cathy had achieved the level of radiant empathy. Kathy Marschak, a licensed psychologist describes radiant therapy as, "the ability to care about the thoughts and feelings of others without expecting anything

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in return. It is the highest level of empathy and takes a lifetime to develop because it's a combination of life experience and a healthy brain." I know each of you have experienced the warm, fuzzy feeling of being a recipient of Cathy's radiant empathy and integrity.

I loved Cathy's infectious sense of humor. We had a good laugh over Cathy being outsmarted by a rescued Newfoundland. Cathy was walking around the yard looking for him. She couldn't find him until she looked up and saw him looking back at her from the kennel roof. She appropriately dubbed the Newf, Fiddler.

In 2014, I submitted my TNP application and adopted my beautiful boy, Vinnie! Even after working alongside Cathy in rescue, an adoption application had to be on file. Cathy was a real stickler to detail and completeness.

I last spoke to Cathy this past winter. The conversation ended with, "I'll call you back." Life took a detour, and I never did make that call back. I will forever regret not making that call just as I will forever hear Cathy confirming my regret with her own resounding, "A-Yeeeeeaaah!"

From Mary L. Price

Representing The Newfoundland Club of America Rescue

When I think of Cathy, I'm reminded of her extraordinary generosity and infectious laughter. We visited together at many NCA National Specialties and discussed the challenges of rescue work.

Cathy's generosity extended beyond her significant donations to the NCA Charitable Trust. Last year she bought enough raffle tickets so she could win a complete set of the Limited Edition plates!

When NCA presented the 2013 Good Sportsmanship Award to Cathy, John Cornell reminded us, "If you are in Coventry, Connecticut, and you drive by a barn with a Newfoundland etched in the slate of the roof, you will know you just went by one of the hardest working rescue people in our Club."

Her legacy lives on through the work she inspires all of us to support --- Newfoundland Rescue.

Thank you for this opportunity to share a few thoughts about Cathy. We will find comfort in our shared memories when we remember Cathy Derench, a VERY special person.

Cathy Derench - Leader, Legend, Lover

From Amy Jo Coven

Cathy Derench is the person I wanted to be when I grew up. The person who says YES to every animal in need. The person who puts an animal before her own needs, again and again.

Here today, on this beautiful farm...we are all animal lovers. And every one of us is doing a small part to save those who need saving and provide comfort and joy to the ones that we can. So, I suspect Cathy is the person many of you wanted to be when you grew up too.

When I was small, I had the classic child's dream of becoming a veterinarian. The yearning to

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heal every animal and to work with animals. Like most children...that dream fades over time either because science and math are really hard, or the cost of training is out of reach, or because we realize that veterinarians' have to do a lot of euthanasia and sterilizations, and that work is decidedly important but less romantic.

While most of us never become veterinarians...I never lost that little girl dream of saying YES to every animal, any animal in need. And while I was dreaming about it, Cathy built it. I worshiped her and Ed. Their seamless collaboration and dedication to donkeys, a cow, feral cats, Henry, and of course the NEWFS...They never said no, they always found a way. And then they always found a home, not just any home, the RIGHT home. I don't know how she did it. A match maker who followed her instincts and created her own guidelines.

Before I met Cathy, I would be angry at stories of people who surrendered their dogs. It seems like such a betrayal. A failure of the commitment we make when we bring a dog or any animal into our lives. Cathy taught me, surrender is BRAVE and surrender is honorable. An unwanted dog. An ignored dog. A sick dog who isn't getting treated...THAT is a failure. But having the humility and the courage to say "I'm not doing this right" Or. "We can't do this right...either financially or because of life circumstances" gives that animal a second shot at a good life, a better life, hopefully the BEST life.

Cathy's people skills are what makes her life's work next level, in my opinion. I remember coming here for the first time 6 or 7 years ago. It was an open house. My husband Rick and I brought our non-rescue Newfs with us and I was in HEAVEN. So many Newfoundlands all in one place! Sharing stories with other NEWF lovers...was exhilarating and fun. I was also startled by how many Newfs were in need. My inside voice was yelling, *how are so many people giving up their dogs?*

Cathy came right up to me. Close. Like, really close. The greeting was warm but intense. She looked in my eyes when we talked, she held my gaze the way most people don't or can't. She asked about our dogs...and she was appraising them, casually. But I could tell she was looking over their demeanor, our demeanor with them.

We didn't feel judged. She was READING us. Filing it away for a future match perhaps or writing us off as not ready or not right for the mission.

It would be YEARS before we got the call. We kept coming to the open houses and the annual reunion. Our first newfs, Bella and Lola, left us two years apart, 11 and 12 years old. And now we had a puppy, our first boy! We were thrilled. The message came via Facebook. Cathy was a social media master. Always available to give advice, always promoting her latest rescue and always cheering all of us on in our adventures, heartaches, joys and worries with our gentle giants. No snobbery here. Just love. Not a lot of complicated rules. Cathy was no nonsense. One got the sense she just didn't have time for it. And she had her own ethos about training and healthcare. For example, not a single other rescue organization would even CONSIDER us as an adopter while our Hugo was in-tact.

Hugo was still in tact when we got the call about Clementine.

I immediately 'fessed up that Hugo was NOT neutered.

Cathy, didn't skip a beat. "Oh, I'm not worried about that. I don't neuter my personal dogs," she said. I wouldn't put a male with him but this spayed girl will be fine. Clementine is MORE than fine. She and Hugo bonded quickly, easily and he has never not once tried to mount her

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or been aggressive in anyway. Cathy was not a one size fits all rescue operation. She didn't lay a template of "rules" on top of every situation....she followed her gut, her READ of the dog, the people and the situation.

How lucky are we to have her guiding our lives with these majestic animals?

I am so sorry and sad not to be here in person today. I am terribly ill and in bed. Our last visit to TNP was in June. Cathy was in the golf cart. We took the canine good citizen test with Hugo and Clementine. And we PASSED. I was jumping around like a fool and shouting at Cathy, "Look, Cathy! Look! Clementine passed! She did it!"

You know what Cathy said to me? "YOU did it! YOU did it! I'm so proud of you guys!"

Cheering us on from the golf cart and telling us how good our dogs looked. I stood six inches taller that day. Because of Cathy.

Sending all of you and your lovely dogs a big hug from Massachusetts on this gorgeous August day.

"Look Cathy! Look what YOU did! You built it, we came and we learned and we loved and the dogs are so much better for it."

We love you Cathy. From the bottom of our slobbery, furry hearts.

From Donna McConn

Representing Colonial Newfoundland Rescue

Colonial Newfoundland Rescue worked with Cathy for many years to assist with placing Newfoundland Dogs. Sometimes it took several of us to help these dogs. Cathy was always available to talk about special needs Newfs to figure out how we could help them. We always loved to hear her experience with issues. She had so much knowledge about the breed. Cathy always had a positive attitude when working with rescue even though situations could be so frustrating. Colonial Rescue became a 501(c)3 in 2016 after being under the Colonial Newfoundland Club. It was always good to have an expert to work with us. We were always happy to assist Cathy with potential adopters for her rescues in our area and do home checks for her. We are all working to save the Newfs, and our relationship helps us achieve that goal. Of the most importance is the ability for rescues to work together to find homes for them. Cathy is greatly missed. Her commitment to this breed will never be forgotten.

From Starr Willetts, Helen Mancuso & Laura Davidson

Representing Northland Newfoundland Club Rescue

Helen, Laura and I have known and worked with Cathy and TNP for decades. The sting of Cathy's loss will be part of us for a very long time to come. There are no words to convey her insurmountable loss to us personally and to our rescue community.

Cathy's dedication to doing Newf rescue and doing it right is legendary and truly inspiring!! She was always just a phone call away. Now she is a thought and prayer away.

From Marjie, Mary, Shannon & Lonnie

Representing Genesee Region Newfoundland Club Rescue

It did not take long for anyone new to the wonderful world of Newfoundlands to become familiar with the name Cathy Derench. She elevated That Newfoundland Place to a level of national prominence. Her life's work was a testament to her love of our precious breed, and her dedication to rescue made her well known across the country and beyond. Her loss was felt so deeply, and the outpouring of anecdotes from so many individuals whose lives were touched by Cathy has been so moving to witness. The enormous legacy that she leaves behind will keep her memory and her spirit alive for a very long time.

Cathy's generosity with her time, her energy and her rescue funds has done an immeasurable amount of good. There are so many precious souls who are alive because of her and whose lives are so much better because she was there when they needed her. Wherever she is in spirit, may she feel the enormous debt of gratitude and love that she so richly deserves for all that she gave to others. Thank you, Cathy. It was our great honor to have known you.



Thinking of leaving a bequest to TNP?

Donations should be made payable to:

That Newfoundland Place, Inc.

EIN (Tax ID): 27-2176439

Payment Address:

54 Pucker Street, Coventry, CT 06238

Thank you for your consideration!

Honor the Life of Cathy with a donation to the Legacy Fund "Cathy's Crew"

Please add a note that your donation is for "Cathy's Crew"



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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*