

Newfie News



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ISSUE 5

TNP 2024 Year in Review

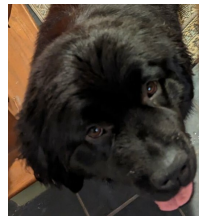
2024 was a year of loss and transition at That Newfoundland Place as the legendary Cathy Derench passed away in June. Yet, TNP will carry Cathy's legacy and work into the new year and beyond. Dogs will continue to be rescued and found wonderful homes and every effort will be made to help pet owners with food and medical needs for their pets in order to keep their furry family members in their homes.

A total of 15 dogs were placed through TNP in 2024, and TNP coordinated with another rescue for one additional placement. TNP also provided financial assistance to 16 families in the form of food, medical costs and building a property fence in one case so their dogs (and 2 cats) could stay in their home.

Here's a look at the dogs in Cathy's Crew in 2024.

JANUARY

Sophie was adopted by Ann and Andy McCann of Newfane, Vermont. One-year-old Sophie joined TNP alumni Olivia, age 10, and Murphy, a 9-year-old Aussie/Shepherd mix. Sophie loves car rides, spending time with the other dogs, and playing in the snow.



Norah, a Rhodesian Ridgeback, was 5 months old when she was adopted by Christine and Kevin Dumais from Uxbridge, Massachusetts.

FEBRUARY



Goliath, now Orion, is living in Connecticut with long-time adopter Faith Ferguson. Faith fostered a couple of Newfs prior to adopting but is now focusing her attention on Orion, who loves being brushed.

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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.

Start the New Year in Style with Cathy's Crew Hoodies and Bibs



Cathy's Crew is a special project within TNP that ensures elderly or hard to home animals have a beautiful farm in Connecticut with space, resources, and love to safely live out their lives forever. The farm is the life work of animal rescue legend Cathy Derench who was the divine intervention to thousands of animals that found a new beginning because they crossed Cathy's path. All animals that have been rescued, crossed paths, or helped in any way by Cathy are part of Cathy's Crew.

Visit the TNP Facebook page or website for order information.

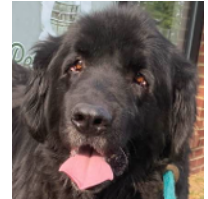
Happy New Year from TNP

Wishing you a happy, healthy 2025 filled with lots of Newf kisses

TNP 2024 Year in Review - continued from page 1

MARCH

Ruthie was placed in foster care in 2023 in Pennsylvania. Soon after, the 8-year-old Ruthie was diagnosed with SAS. Ruthie is thriving and is now permanently in foster care with foster mom Brenda.



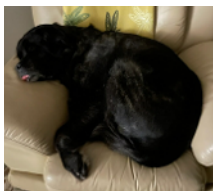
Sully & Kit were adopted by Alison Jean (AJ) and now live on Cape Cod where they swim as much as the fish do! These 5 year olds also enjoyed attending local baseball games in the summer.

JUNE

Spencer & Olivia are Maltese siblings. Shyann Torstenson of Andover, Connecticut adopted Spencer at age 11 months and she also placed Olivia at 10 months with Christine Mekle in Mansfield, Connecticut.

JULY

Moose was adopted at 18 months by Veronique & John Chechile from Salem, Connecticut. Moose is living with TNP alumni Rosie.



Koko went to her new family, Lisa and Tim White of Warrington, Pennsylvania. The 5-year-old girl loves to lounge on the couch or chair and be petted.

Moose (in front)

Kata was a very small mixed breed that was signed over to TNP but immediately brought to Animal Welfare Society for placement.

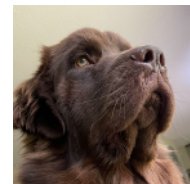
Kaiser is a German Shepherd, approximately 3 years old, who is now with Jess D. in Mansfield, Connecticut.

AUGUST

Nine-month-old **Goober** was adopted by Sandy Reuter and lives in Killingworth, Connecticut.

SEPTEMBER

Sarah now Shelby, lives with Rhonda and Paul Hamer of Hubbardston, Massachusetts. One-year-old Shelby loves her people and eating twigs.



OCTOBER



Raven, age 3, was adopted by Katie and Kirk Brodeur of Harrisville, Rhode Island. She loves playing with her 11-year-old human sister Sophie, especially outside.

NOVEMBER

Hudson is living with Mary Anne and John Dutka in New York.



Re-naming Your Rescued Newf

It may not surprise you that dogs *do* know their name. Any pet parent that has seen the head tilt, tail wag or dog running to them when they call their name is a believer that their canine knows what they are called. But how they process their name, and other words, differs from humans.

According to the American Psychological Association the average dog understands more than 150 words, and smarter dogs know 250 words or more. Most dogs have a mental ability close to that of a 2-year-old child. Studies have shown that dogs can learn words within one week.

Dogs learn through association. When they hear a word that is followed by the same behavior, they associate that word with the behavior. That's why any mention of the word "walk" or "treat" will likely get a positive reaction out of your dog.

And, it's not just the words and sounds that dogs process to gain understanding. Dogs also use both sides of their brain to understand human words. They read our body language and listen to our tone as we speak to decipher what we are telling them.

Teaching a dog their name is similar to teaching a new trick or commands like "sit," "stay," and "down." Dogs respond best to positive reinforcement. Like most dogs, your Newf may be food motivated, so have lots of treats handy as well as praise to help him learn new words. Be sure to avoid using your Newf's name when you're teaching new commands as this can cause confusion between their name and the action you want him to perform.

If you find your Newf is having trouble learning his name or the new word, switch to a more high-value food like chicken, or whatever he loves best. You can also train your dog with a clicker if you prefer to not give her the additional calories from treats.

A Rose By Any Other Name...

Should you rename your newly adopted Newf? Is there any harm in this? Dog's don't have the same sense of identity with their names as humans do, they are simply responding to sounds, body language and tone, so, with proper training, it's perfectly okay to change the name.

A recent survey from Many Pets pet insurance found that 33% of dog parents chose to rename their new additions. And with dogs being so adaptable, it's unusual for a dog to struggle with a name change. In fact, the same survey found 73% of dogs adjusted to their new names in just a few days. But allow the dog some grace. Not all dogs learn at the same pace. And, after all, your Newf may have been responding to a different name for many years.

Some new adopters like to change their canine's name to give them a "fresh start" and associate their new name with their new home. Or perhaps they feel the new name better suits the dog's personality or appearance. You may already have a favorite name in mind, but if not, choosing a new name that sounds similar to the old name will help with training. Using a name with the same first initial/sound, the same number of syllables, or one that rhymes with the old name will be easiest for your Newf to learn. Names with fewer syllables, easy

Do Cats Know Their Names?

Cats are typically perceived as more independent and aloof and being less trainable than dogs. But don't underestimate your feline friend! Studies have shown that cats can recognize their own names and can be trained to do so. Training methods are the same. Cats will respond to their name if they get some sort of reward for doing so, such as food or praise.

Re-naming your Rescued Newf - continued from page 4

pronunciation, and one that is distinct from other family members - pets or human- will also make learning the new name easier for your Newf. Dogs will likely learn new names quickly if they are simple - one to two syllables - and catch their attention.

Training Your Dog to Learn a New Name

The process of teaching your Newf her new name is similar to teaching any dog a name. It is based on positive reinforcement and consistency (see side bar). Use the name frequently so the dog can hear and recognize his new name, such as when praising, feeding and during play time. Maintain a cheerful tone.

Keep the name consistent each time you speak to your Newf, at least to start, and make sure everyone in the family uses the same name. Keep training sessions to 3 to 5 minutes in length to maintain focus for your dog. Once your Newf has mastered her new name, you can introduce nicknames, and she will likely respond to those fairly quickly especially if they are shortened versions of her name or have similar sounds, as dogs have difficulty distinguishing like-sounding words from each other.

If your dog has come from a loving home and appears to have good memories with her prior family you may want to consider keeping her name. She has likely developed a strong connection with the old family and the sound of her name. This could potentially make a name change more difficult. Slowly introducing the new name may be most effective. Say your Newf's original name in a happy tone. When he looks at you, say "yes!" or use a clicker, then reward with a treat. Repeat five times. Then say the new name followed by the old name, pausing briefly between the two. Say "yes!" or use a clicker, then reward. Repeat at least five times. Finally, gradually phase out the old name by just saying the new name and mark and reward when he responds. Repeat these actions throughout the day. If you are intent on changing the dog's name and he is just not responding, seek professional advise from a dog trainer or behaviorists.

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How to Teach a Dog Their Name - Or Their New Name

Start in a calm environment with minimal distractions.

When your dog isn't looking at you, say his name **once** in a bright, happy tone. (Do not continually say their name if they do not respond. Try again later.)

Immediately say "yes" or "good" or use a clicker after your dog responds to her name (by turning her head or looking at you) followed by a treat and lots of pets. Repeat several times throughout the day.

If your Newf doesn't respond immediately when you call, don't repeat or start shouting his name, just try again later, perhaps in a different area with fewer distractions.

Speak in different - but positive - tones so she understands the sound of her name and is not just responding to your tone.

Start the training inside, but add more distractions or move outside when your Newf is starting to grasp his name. Be sure to keep her on a leash to keep her focused and safe.

When you get the more consistent responses, give intermittent treats but always give verbal praise.

Consistency is key; consistency with rewarding the behavior will help your Newf associates his name with a positive response.

Avoid using the dog's name in any negative contexts. If you need to correct your dog, simply say "quiet" or "off."

Avoid saying your Newf's name before every command you teach her. You should be able to say, "sit," "stay," or "down" without repeating her name before every command.

Never punish a dog that doesn't respond correctly.

Re-naming your Rescued Newf - continued from page 5

In time, your Newf should recognize her new name and know her place in the family. Ultimately, it's the tone of voice that matters when you address your pets, not the words.

Resources/More information

<https://www.petmd.com/dog/general-health/do-dogs-know-their-name>
<https://www.akcpetinsurance.com/blog/do-pets-recognize-their-nicknames>
<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/how-to-teach-dog-name/>
<https://melmagazine.com/en-us/story/do-dogs-know-their-names>
<https://petkrazie.com/blog/51459/how-to-get-an-older-dog-to-learn-a-new-name#:~:text=Depending%20on%20the%20name%20and,to%20call%20your%20beloved%20pet>
<https://www.pawstrans.com/2017/08/can-i-change-my-dogs-name/#:~:text=The%20bottom%20line%20is%20that,name%E2%80%9D%20from%20their%20previous%20home>
<https://manypets.com/us/blog/change-a-dogs-name/>
<https://www.rover.com/blog/how-to-change-dog-name/#:~:text=Say%20your%20dog's%20new%20name,not%20keep%20saying%20their%20name.>

Thinking of leaving a bequest to TNP?

Donations should be made payable to:
That Newfoundland Place, Inc.
EIN (Tax ID): 27-2176439

Payment Address:
554 Pucker Street
Coventry, CT 06238

Thank you for your consideration!

To continue to support Cathy's work & her foundation please see below.
Thank you for all the generous support.

THAT NEWFOUNDLAND PLACE DONATIONS

VENMO  PAYPAL 

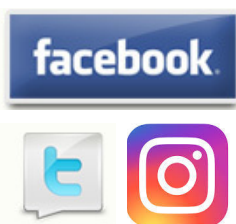
 



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<https://www.americanexpress.com/en-us/banking/round-up/frequently-asked-questions/>

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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. Ed Derench, President *Newsletter editor and publisher Joanna Dumas: joanna.l.dumas@gmail.com*