

Newfie News



That
Newfoundland
Place
Rescue With A Heart

July 2025

VOLUME 6

ISSUE 11

Reading Your Newf's Body Language

Wouldn't it be great if your Newf could talk to you? They can! Of course, not verbally but if you pay attention to your dog's behaviors and vocalizations you can determine what your Newf is trying to tell you and when they are feeling happy, anxious, or stressed. You will also strengthen your relationship and bond with your Newf, cue in on aggressive or fearful reactions, and improve communication during training.

Dog body language encompasses a range of behaviors and parts of the body that convey their needs, emotions, and intentions. Some of the most important things to watch are:

Eyes

Eye contact is an important signal for dogs. A calm, happy, or comfortable dog has "soft" eyes and the forehead is without wrinkles. Soft eyes have relaxed lids and may look like the dog is squinting. Hard eyes indicate a challenge or possible aggression. The eyes seem cold. You may have seen this type of eye if a dog is guarding a toy or food. A direct, hard stare, where the dog looks intently at something, usually for a long time, often signals a threat. You will also notice wrinkles across the forehead.

Stressed dogs often look away to avoid eye contact or can look at the trigger then quickly look away. Blinking and looking away is meant to calm a situation, and also happens when dogs express appeasement (trying to appear smaller, less of a threat), or they may also squint their eyes. Dogs may also show the whites of their eyes (sometimes called side eye or whale eye) when they are anxious, stressed, or fearful. The dog might turn his head away from a stressor but angle their eyes toward it.

Ears

Ears are used for listening – which is much better than a human's – and expressing emotion. Ears on calm dogs are in their natural position. In Newfs and other floppy eared

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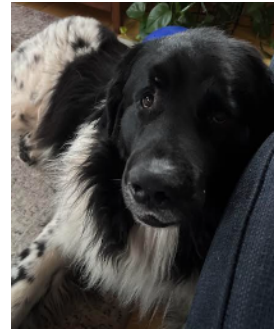
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Recently Adopted

John and Dawn Thomas of Fultonville, New York adopted 3-year-old **Duke** in May. "We've never had a Newf that was easier," John said. "He acts like he has been here forever."

The Thomases are experienced Newf owners. John became interested in Newfoundland as a teenager when he saw a dog show hosted by the Northland Newfoundland Club. He immediately knew he wanted one. They have had 6 Newfs and 2 mixed breed dogs in the last 37 years. Duke is their third rescue, and their first from TNP, which they found online. The previous Newfs were from Northland Newfoundland Club in Sand Lake, New York. They lost their last dog, a mixed breed, in October at age 14. Their last Newf passed away three years ago at nearly 12 years old. They have often had two dogs at once, but Duke is their only pet.



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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.

Celebrate These Pet Holidays With Your Newf This Month

July is **National Pet Hydration Awareness** Month, so important in these summer months. As a double-coated dog, your Newf is more susceptible to heat stroke. Hydration is key, but be sure you know the signs and get your Newf to medical help as soon as possible.

July 1 is **ID Your Pet Day**. Lost dogs with identification are more than twice as likely to be returned than those with no identification.

Snap a photo of your Newf on **All-American Pet Photo Day** on July 11 and post it on the TNP Facebook page!

July 15 is **National Pet Fire Safety Day**. Make sure you have a plan for your Newf in case of a fire.

Early Signs of Heat Stroke

Heavy panting and rapid breathing, excessive drooling, dry mucous membranes, bright red gums and tongue, and skin that's hot to the touch, and a higher heart rate are all signs of heat stroke.

Bring the dog to a well-ventilated, cool area, spray or sponge the dog with cool water, especially on the underside, and use a fan to blow cool air on them.

Source:

<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/health/heatstroke-in-dogs/>



Expert Excerpts

Kennel Cough

Last month we learned about the symptoms of kennel cough, a highly contagious virus of the respiratory system, contracted by inhaling bacteria or virus particles into the respiratory tract, direct contact with an infected dog, or by coming into contact with contaminated surfaces.

Treatment

Kennel cough is easily treatable in most healthy adult dogs. Most dogs will recover in 1 to 3 weeks with rest, however antibiotics may be needed to prevent secondary bacterial infection, as well as cough suppressant medication to help your dog (and you) sleep. Using a dog harness to walk your dog when he has kennel cough will reduce irritation of the tracheal area which can aggravate the cough and possibly cause damage.

Kennel cough can be more serious in puppies younger than 6 months old or in older dogs or those with health conditions, especially respiratory diseases or compromised immune systems. Serious, ongoing kennel cough infection can lead to pneumonia. Coughing can be a symptom of many diseases including asthma and heart disease so your dog should be seen by a veterinarian to monitor his health.

Prevention

A bordatella vaccine is available to dogs and is recommended (and often required by facilities) for dogs who are boarded, attend doggie daycare or are exposed to large groups of dogs. The vaccine is available as an injection,

Order Your 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. Hoodies available in black, pink, and orange. Bibs are available in black.

Hoodies are \$65, bibs are \$25.

Email Krisy@ThatNewfoundlandPlace.org with your size/color and address.



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Expert Excerpts: Kennel Cough continued from page 3

orally, or as a nasal spray, usually given in two doses two to four weeks apart. Boosters are required every six months to a year. Some cases of kennel cough are caused by other germs, such as canine adenovirus type 2, canine parainfluenza virus, canine respiratory coronavirus, and mycoplasma. The bordetella vaccine would not prevent your dog from catching these strains of kennel cough.

Sources:

<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/health/kennel-cough-in-dogs/>

<https://www.webmd.com/pets/dogs/kennel-cough-in-dogs>

Next TNP Open House

Join That Newfoundland Place at the next Open House on **July 20**. The final Open House of the year will be held on **August 24**.

Meet the TNP rescue staff as well as TNP alumni - both dogs and adopters. Learn more about the breed while enjoying pizza and drinks.

Handouts on the breed and applications for adoption will be available. Dogs looking for their forever homes may be on site.

All well behaved, leashed dogs are welcome! Please be mindful of extreme heat when bringing your dog. Note: Open Houses may be canceled due to extreme weather. Check the TNP Facebook page for updates.

Open Houses are meet and greet events only. No dogs are adopted out.

All Open Houses are held Noon to 3pm

554 Pucker St, Coventry, CT

Events are held rain or shine and are free to attend.



Artwork by Creative Fabrica



breeds, the ears hang slightly forward. Pointed ears will stand straight. Ears that are more forward indicate interest or curiosity. Ears on aggressive dogs are back and against their head if they are fearful or pricked forward or to the side if they are assertive and confident. It's important to read whole body positioning in these scenarios to understand what your dog is communicating.

Dogs who are stressed or fearful flatten their ears against their head or tuck them back against the head. Appeased dogs also pin back their ears.

Mouth & Facial Expression

If your Newf's mouth is closed without tension around the lips or relaxed and slightly open (perhaps lightly panting), she is comfortable and happy. Fear and aggression are usually easy to spot in the mouth as it is tightly closed with the corners or lips pulled back, and the teeth bared. The dog may also have wrinkles across the muzzle and begin panting without increased activity or temperature. Dogs can also show their teeth in a smile, with the corners of their mouth turned up. The dog will also have a loose posture. This type of body language is a sign of happiness or relaxation.

Stress or overheating dogs pant and have wide eyes. Anxious dogs may also perform exaggerated yawns, sneeze, or lick their lips frequently. They might also shake their bodies as if they are wet, focus on self-grooming, or scratch themselves excessively. Note that yawning can also be an indication of tiredness.

Tail

The tail is often the feature many people, especially those without dogs, use to gauge the mood of the dog. But a wagging tail doesn't always indicate a happy dog. The position, speed, direction, and stiffness matter.

Relaxed, happy dogs hold their tail in a neutral position. Note that this is different in different breeds. Happy Newfs have a loose, wagging tail in a wide, sweeping motion that's even with the spine. The wag is long, slow, and side-to-side. The wag may be slightly higher if the dog is playing. An aggressive tail in a fearful dog is tucked between the legs, almost pressed up against the belly and their weight is distributed so that they are shifted back and away from potential triggers. They may raise the tail during the act of aggression. A confident aggressive dog may have a stiff tail held high above their body, possibly twitching side to side in a tight wag. The higher the tail, the more assertive the dog.

Dogs with tucked tails or pointing down to the ground are feeling fear and stress. An alert/stressed tail could also be held vertically or arched over the back. The tail may move slowly and deliberately or rapidly and vibrating. Dogs with a slow, stiff wag are feeling uncertainty or caution. Appeased dogs have a tucked tail or held low and moving in a slow, tight wag.

A study on the direction of tail-wagging revealed that dogs tend to wag their tails more to the right when they're feeling positive about something, and to the left when dogs faced something negative. Of course, the tail that spins in a circle is a happy wag.

Posture

You have likely often seen your Newf with a relaxed, loose, wiggly body – and that Newf swagger of the rear – indicating your Newf is playful and happy. A playful dog may also display a play bow, with front legs stretched out and rear end up, with an invitation to play. An aggressive dog is stiff, rigid, and tense, with minimal movement. The fur may be raised straight up, especially across the shoulders and at the base of the spine.

Fearful and appeased dogs are often in a crouching position - hunched over with a curved back and head close to the ground – and a tucked tail. The body will likely be stiff and they may shed more when nervous. The overall movement in appeased dogs is slow and they may raise a front paw. A raised paw indicates a dog is uncertain about a situation or perhaps feels a bit insecure. An appeased dog may also roll on his back and show his belly.

Weight distribution is also a strong indication of a dog's feelings. An appeased dog will shift her weight backward to appear less threatening. Aggressive or alert dog's weight will be shifted forward in a stiff-legged "ready" stance.

Forward shifting weight may also mean the dog is trying to get closer to something of interest.

Is It Play or Aggression?

Sometimes it can be difficult to determine if dogs are playing or fighting.

Playing: dogs take turns, have relaxed body language, and may display a play bow.

Aggression: dogs will have stiff movements, growling/teeth baring, and raised hackles.

Source: <https://thedogretreat.com/blog/understanding-canine-body-language/>

Raised Hackles

A dog's hackles is the hair on their back from the shoulders, down the back, to the tail. Raised hackles indicate highly emotional arousal, but it is not always negative. Stressed, upset, excited, or intensely interested dogs may raise their hackles. It's often an involuntary reaction, like goosebumps in people.

Responding to Your Dog's Body Language

Understanding your dog's body language is important but responding appropriately is key to effective communication. Happy, playful dogs should be greeted with calm speech and gentle petting. Remain calm and remove your dog from triggers if he exhibits aggressive signals. Fearful or stressed dogs should be given space and reassurance. Avoid direct eye contact if your dog seems nervous or appeased. As always, reinforce positive behavior with treats and praise.

Most importantly, look at ALL your Newf's body parts to determine what she is trying to communicate. A signal can mean different things, depending on what other parts of the body indicate.

Sources/more information:

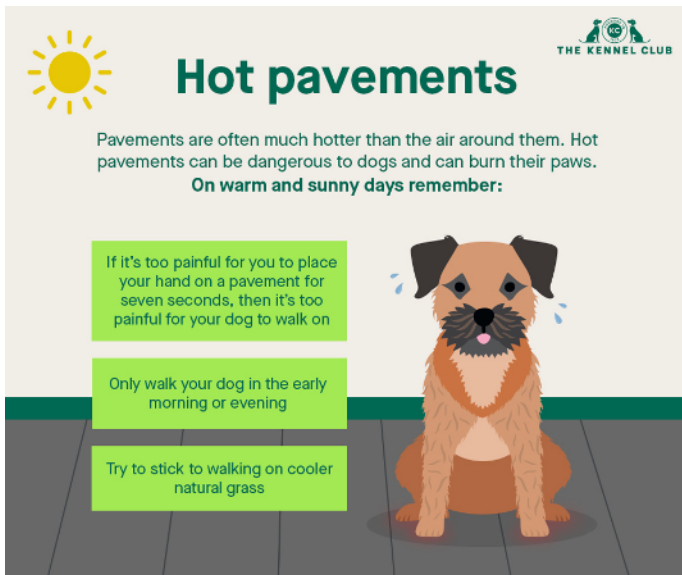
<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/advice/how-to-read-dog-body-language/>

<https://thedogretreat.com/blog/understanding-canine-body-language/>

<https://www.petmd.com/dog/behavior/how-to-read-dog-body-language>

<https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/canine-communication---interpreting-dog-language>

Hot Weather Reminders For Pet Owners



Hot pavements

Pavements are often much hotter than the air around them. Hot pavements can be dangerous to dogs and can burn their paws.

On warm and sunny days remember:

- If it's too painful for you to place your hand on a pavement for seven seconds, then it's too painful for your dog to walk on
- Only walk your dog in the early morning or evening
- Try to stick to walking on cooler natural grass

THE KENNEL CLUB

Source:

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/health-and-dog-care/health/health-and-care/a-z-of-health-and-care-issues/hot-pavements/>



Hearing More Fireworks Than Usual?

Firework displays are happening frequently across the country and these summertime pyrotechnics can be seriously distressing for pets.

1 in 5 pets goes missing after being scared by loud noises, so make sure your furry friends are safe and comfortable with these tips from our experts.

- Never allow your pets near fireworks as they can easily become injured
- Keep pets inside and secure while fireworks are going off so they can't run away
- Make sure your pet has an ID tag and microchip with up-to-date information
- Keep a current photo of your pet handy in case they do get lost
- Consult your vet for medication if your pet gets particularly frightened by fireworks and loud noises
- If you are going out, consider boarding your pet or taking extra steps to keep them secure

Source: ASPCA



ASPCA

It's Hot Out!
Don't Leave Your Pet in the Car!

120°
Within 30 minutes, the car's interior can climb from 85° to 120°.

102°
On an 85° day, it only takes **ten minutes** for the inside of your car to reach 102°.

90°
Even if the temperature outside is only 70°, the inside of your car may be as much as **20 degrees hotter!**

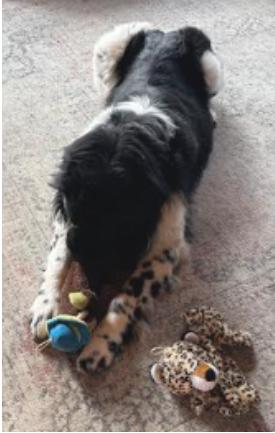
Pets most at risk for overheating are young, elderly or overweight animals, those with short muzzles and those with thick or dark-colored coats.

A car may overheat even when the windows have been left open an inch or two.

Shade offers little protection on a hot day and moves with the sun.

Many states and local governments have laws that prohibit leaving an animal unattended in a motor vehicle under dangerous conditions, which includes hot days. Your car could be damaged or you could be charged with a crime.

If you see an animal in a car on a hot day, try to locate the owner, or call 911! Stay by the car until help arrives.



Both John and Dawn are retired but Duke is keeping them active. He's very energetic and loves to walk. "He gets in about 25,000 steps a day," John said. With 28 acres of property plus 25 acres of state land, Duke has plenty of room to explore and get his exercise in. Duke also loves people and toys. He is particularly fond of a horse ball that he loves to play with.

With their experience with rescue, John and Dawn fully expected Duke would have some anxiety or other issues. They have been pleasantly surprised. "He's super," John said. "What a personality. He's all Newf. He's a ham." The retired life looks bright and active for both the Thomases and Duke.

Thinking of leaving a bequest to TNP?

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

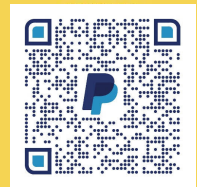
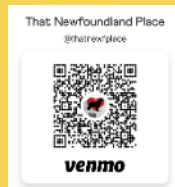
Payment Address:
554 Pucker Street
Coventry, CT 06238

Thank you for your
consideration!

To continue to support Cathy's work & her foundation
please see below.

Thank you for all the generous support.

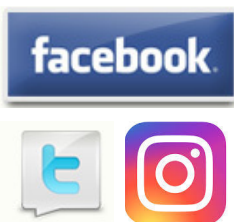
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DONATIONS**



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