

Newfie News



March 2026

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ISSUE 7

Why Is Your Newf Barking At Nothing?

Any dog owner has likely seen their canine seemingly barking at nothing, whether they are standing in the middle of a room, looking out the window at a quiet neighborhood, or you let them out to relieve themselves on a still night. It can lead to frustration and confusion for the owner, but even though it seems like random barking, there is usually a reason for it. Barking is one way your Newf communicates with you and their surroundings. Let's look at what your dog might be telling you.

There is something that has piqued their interest (even if they may not know exactly what it is)

A dog's senses are much keener than a human's. They hear higher frequencies, sensing extremely soft sounds, far quieter than human ears can detect. And, dogs are believed to be able to detect sounds up to four times farther away than humans can. Dogs see in lower light, so darkness is full of shapes and movement. Their sense of smell

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2026 Open House Schedule

That Newfoundland Place has announced the dates for the 2026 Open Houses:

June 7 - Canine Good Citizen test
August 23 - Grooming demonstration
October 4 - Cookout

TNP rescue staff will be on hand to answer questions as well as TNP alumni - both dogs and people.

Applications for adoption and breed specific information will be available.

All well behaved, leashed dogs are welcome to attend events. Please be mindful of extreme heat when bringing your dog. Your Newf will be able to cool off in doggie pools.

Dogs available for adoption may be on site, however, dogs are not adopted during an Open House. They are meet and greet events only.

All Open Houses are Noon to 3pm
554 Pucker St , Coventry, CT

Events are held rain or shine and are free to attend. Come enjoy pizza, donuts, & chips!

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Who's at TNP

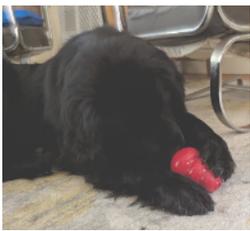
Two-and-a-half -year old **Boss** is still waiting for his forever home. This sweet boy loves affection and is good with both dogs and cats. He will need a home with a 6 foot fence. Watch for updates in future newsletters and the TNP Facebook page.



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



One year old Daisy was adopted by Paul Choquet and Stacie Nicholas of Riverton, Connecticut in January. "She's definitely still a puppy, but is settling in," Stacie said. "She's a really good dog. She's energetic but she settles down." Daisy is spending lots of time outside in the snow this winter as Paul is retired and takes her on long hikes to get some energy out. Daisy also likes to chew and play with toys. Paul and Stacie live across the street from the Farmington River and are looking forward to bringing Daisy when the weather gets warmer.

Daisy is Paul and Stacie's fourth Newf, all of whom have been rescues. Their first Newf was through private adoption. Stacie has always loved big dogs. She had friends who had Mastiffs and answered a newspaper ad for a "black Golden Retriever" which turned out to be a mix but was very Newf like. Their second adoption was through the ASPCA. After their second Newf they knew they wanted another and found TNP through research. Their last Newf, Thyme, was adopted through TNP at age 8. She passed away last October.



Paul and Stacie are used to older dogs; Daisy is their first puppy. The choice was intentional as they were looking for a Newf that was a bit younger. "We wanted more time with the dog," Stacie said. "With older dogs we were saying goodbye sooner." They are also used to larger dogs. Thyme was 135 pounds, compared to Daisy who is 65 pounds. She will grow a little more but is not likely to be more than 100 pounds. No matter her size, Daisy is enough to make Paul and Stacie's lives complete.



Expert Excerpts

Giardia

Giardia is a single-celled parasite called a protozoan that takes two forms: trophozoites and cysts. Trophozoites are the active, feeding form that travel through the intestines and attach themselves to the wall of the small intestines, causing damage and inflammation. Cysts are similar to eggs and pass from the dog's intestines in its feces. The disease, giardiasis, affects mammals, birds, and amphibians.

Symptoms

The most common symptom is diarrhea, which can contain mucus, have a greenish hue, or be pale and foul-smelling. The diarrhea may be occasional or chronic. Other possible symptoms are weight loss, vomiting, failure to gain weight, dehydration, poor coat appearance, and lethargy. Many dogs with Giardia will not develop any symptoms. Any dog can be infected with Giardia, but it is most commonly symptomatic in puppies or young adult dogs.

Causes of Giardia

Infection is caused when an animal comes in contact with stool containing cysts, which can survive in the environment for days to months, depending on conditions. The cysts thrive in the cold, living for one to three months in cold water and up to seven weeks in cool soil temperatures, compared to one week in warmer soil. Infection occurs when Giardia cysts are

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Perfect for Spring: a Cathy's Crew Hoodie from TNP

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.



Why Is Your Newf Barking At Nothing? - continued from page 1

is more than 40 times more powerful than ours. In addition, they have a much larger surface in the nose devoted to detecting odors and a proportionately larger area of their brain devoted to interpreting scents.

Your home and neighborhood are filled with activity you don't think twice about, but your Newf does: neighbors, construction, rodents in walls, wind in the trees or between buildings, and more. It's very possible your dog senses something – whether near or far – that our senses cannot detect.

Medical conditions

If your Newf begins losing his hearing or vision he may bark at things he did not before. Sounds may become muffled and unfamiliar. Unexpected noises may trigger startle responses. Vision loss can cause objects to have a distorted shape and become a threat. Shadows, empty spaces, reflections, light changes, and corners all take on a different appearance.

Pain can also cause a dog to bark (remember, it's how they communicate). Arthritis, dental pain, neck or back pain, ear infections, allergies, and abdominal discomfort can cause irritability, disrupted sleep and painful movement, which can result in barking. Dogs who are fearful, anxious or stressed may also bark. Examples include schedule changes, absence of a household member, or a frightening event.

Barking itself isn't bad. Excessive, constant barking is your dog trying to tell you his needs aren't met mentally, physically, or emotionally. It is your job to investigate why, not try to suppress the barking. Finding the root cause and a solution will lead to quieter times.

They Want Attention

Do you yell at your Newf to stop barking or be quiet when he's seemingly barking at nothing? Your dog is associating this attention from you – even if it is not intended to be positive – with making noise. Dogs needing attention tend to look you directly in the eyes while they bark. So, if you know it's not dinnertime and he just came in from a walk or bathroom break, he may just want some extra attention. To break him of this behavior, you must enter into a match of willpower. Do not respond and avoid eye contact (remember, any acknowledgement is reinforcing the behavior). Eventually your Newf will realize he is not getting what he wants and will find something else to do.

Boredom

If your dog is sitting in the house by himself and barking, she may be bored and have nothing else to stimulate her. Take some time to play with her or take her for a walk to get the wheels in her brain turning again.

Something Scared Them

Barking is one way dogs react when they are frightened or stressed. Your Newf may be trying to scare off the offensive object/being or trying to soothe himself. If you know he is barking because of fear or anxiety, comfort him until he calms down.

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Their Space is Being Invaded

Dogs are territorial animals, and barking is their way of establishing their turf, whether it is from a guest you invited or a squirrel darting across the front lawn.

Territorial barking is usually deep, loud, and authoritative. It has resonant tones indicating a strong warning. Tall and stiff body language usually accompanies this kind of bark.

They're Excited

Dogs often bark when they're feeling happy. Maybe you picked up the leash and they know that a walk is in the near future, or maybe they hear a canine friend a few doors away. Their body is likely relaxed and their tail may be wagging loosely from side to side.

Canine Cognitive Dysfunction



source: pixabay.com

If your Newf is older and suddenly starts barking at seemingly nothing, you may want to ask veterinary about canine cognitive dysfunction, which is similar to Alzheimer's disease in humans, or other cognitive or neurologic shifts. In these cases, dogs may bark suddenly and repetitively, seem unaware of surroundings, then stop abruptly and appear confused afterward.

Other signs of the disease include loss of interest in social interactions, accidents in the house, getting "stuck" in corners, and sleeping more during the day. They may awaken at night and become agitated or confused which can lead to a dog who looks like he's barking at nothing. Early diagnosis and treatment help slow this disorder's progression and improve the dog's quality of life.

Canine Compulsion

Dogs can have compulsive disorders, including barking. In this instance it appears there is no trigger for the barking and it is prolonged and monotonous. A veterinary behaviorist can help identify the root cause and develop a treatment plan. Other compulsions include tail chasing, light chasing, and excessive licking.

Nighttime Barking

Does your Newf tend to do most of his "random" barking at night? His hyper senses are likely detecting one (or more) of the many animals that are active at night in your yard, under the house, in the basement or garage, or in the attic. Racoons, opossums, deer, cats, stray dogs, mice, rats, bats, lizards, and termites are just a few of the nighttime critters your dog may feel the need to "defend" you from. Dogs can smell animals long before seeing them, and even when the animal is gone, the scent remains, and dogs will bark toward the source.

Most Vocal Dog Breeds

Some dogs have been bred to bark as part of their alerting, herding, guarding, or hunting tendencies. These include Beagle, Terrier, Miniature Schnauzer, Chihuahua, Sheltie & Collie, and Dachshund.

These "quieter" breeds tend to bark less by nature: Greyhound, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Basenji, French Bulldog, and Bernese Mountain Dog.

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How to Reduce Unexplained Dog Barking

Listening to the tone of the bark and watching body language can give you some clues as to why your Newf is barking without reason, but sometimes getting to the root cause of the behavior requires trial and error. Try taking him outside for some physical and mental stimulation. If that doesn't work, anxiety or fear may be behind the barking. Try playing relaxing music or turn on a white noise machine to help drown out outside noises, then petting and calming words to make him more comfortable.



source: upsplash.com

Acknowledgement and Quiet Cues

You can use words to stop the barking but tone is critical. Scolding or yelling "quiet" will likely have no effect on your Newf as she will translate the yelling as human "barking" and assume it's due to the same thing that got her barking in the first place. A calm "thank you" or "I know" alerts your Newf that the warning has been heard and you have things under control. You may also say "yes," or "okay" and then her name.

You can also teach your Newf a word they will associate with stopping the barking such as "quiet," "hush," or "stop," or "enough." Just make sure your tone is calm and even. Trigger the barking (a doorbell or knocking does it for most dogs). As soon as you have silence immediately follow with a favorite treat or toy. Timing is key. Reinforce what you want, not what you're trying to stop. With repetition, your Newf will learn that silence and calm earns rewards. Extend the periods of silence and add the quiet cue before giving the treat.

You can also teach the quiet cue when you teach your dog to speak. Teaching two cues at once can be challenging, but the two cues are complementary and your dog will be both barking and quiet during training. Reward the silence as well as the bark. Another method to stop barking is to redirect your Newf's focus with commands or enrichment toys.

If nothing works and the barking remains consistent, ask your veterinarian, trainer, or pet behaviorist for advice.

Resources/more information:

<https://www.dogster.com/lifestyle/why-is-my-dog-barking-at-nothing>

<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/why-does-my-dog-bark-at-nothing/>

<https://pethelpful.com/dogs/why-does-my-dog-bark-at-nothing>

<https://vetexplainspets.com/why-is-my-dog-barking-at-nothing-all-of-a-sudden/>

<https://www.caninejournal.com/why-dogs-bark/>

National Newfoundland Dog Day is March 25

Owning a Newfoundland is cause for celebration every day, but March 25 has been designated as National Newfoundland Dog Day by Niki Gordon of Love Newfoundlands. Founded in 2021, it's a day to honor the characteristics of the breed: strength, loyalty, gentleness, friendliness, affection, and devotion. Be sure to share stories and photos of your Newfie on social media, including the TNP Facebook page, on March 25.

<https://lovenewfoundlands.com/national-newfoundland-dog-day/>

"Expert Excerpts" Giardia - continued from page 3

ingested, such as drinking contaminated water, ingesting cysts off the ground, or picking them up on paws or fur and then ingesting them while grooming. Once ingested, it can take 5 to 12 days for the cysts to develop into trophozoites.

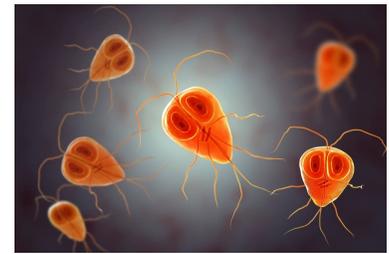
Next month: *Diagnosis, Treatment, Prognosis, Prevention, and Contagiousness*

Sources/More Information

<https://www.thesprucepets.com/giardia-in-dogs-1117391>

<https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/giardia-in-dogs>

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



www.greatpetcare.com

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!

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please see below.

Thank you for all the generous support.

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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, Missy Carbone, Presidents *Newsletter editor/publisher J Dumas: joanna.l.dumas@gmail.com*