

Newfie News



May 2026

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The Head Tilt

For dog owners, there are few things cuter than when your pooch tilts his head. It's an "aww" worthy moment that most owners can't get enough of. There are several reasons why your Newf may tilt his head, some linked to auditory processing, memory recall, emotional response, and learned behavior. Basically, a head tilt usually means your dog is really focused. It often reflects curiosity, attentiveness, or an attempt to understand—rather than just being a cute, random habit.

Listening Better

Tilting the head shifts the position of a Newf's ears, helping her better pinpoint where a sound is coming from. Another explanation relates to ear anatomy. Some



experts believe that dogs with heavy, floppy ears may have partial sound blockage, which makes locating sounds more challenging.

Although dogs generally

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2026 Open House Schedule

Next month is the first TNP Open House of the season. Be sure to attend all these fun events to see old friends, meet new ones, and of course visit with TNP alumni Newfs.

Mark your calendar for these dates:

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

TNP rescue staff will be on hand to answer questions. Adoption applications and breed-specific information will be available.

Well-behaved, leashed dogs are welcome at all events. Please use caution during extreme heat when bringing your Newfs. Dogs will have access to doggie pools to help them stay cool.

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

Buddy arrived at TNP in late April. Staff is still getting to know this 2-and-a-half year old sweetie. Check out the TNP Facebook page and future newsletters for updates.



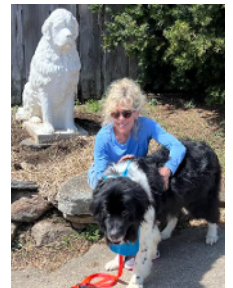
Interested in adopting from TNP?

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

Harry was adopted by Nancy Daigh from Rowayton, Connecticut in April. Watch for updates in future newsletters and the TNP Facebook page.



l to r: Bowie & Margeaux

Shari and Gene Caiola of Allentown, New Jersey adopted **Boss, now Bowie**, in March. Two-and-a-half year old Bowie has a 3-year-old (on May 9th) Newf sister, Margeaux, and the two have already become inseparable. "They love playing together," Shari said. "Wherever she goes, he goes. Sometimes they sleep touching."

Bowie is an affectionate Newf and like to put his head in Shari or Gene's lap to be petted. The family has already been camping and Bowie did great. He enjoys spending time outside, and although they were told he is an escape artist, so far Bowie has not been interested in leaving the yard, but the Caiola's do have a fenced area on their 4 acres of land.

The Caiola's have had Newfs for over 25 years and often had three Newfs at a time. Bowie is their 8th Newf and 4th rescue, their first from TNP. They have also had a Golden Retriever and two Pomsies. They lost their last Newf, Odie, about 2 months ago. Margeaux, who is from a breeder in Maine, was depressed after Odie's loss but has perked up with the addition of Bowie.

Dozer was the Caiola's first Newf in the early 1980s. Shari got involved with Icy Hollow Rescue on Long Island, New York. She got attached to the breed when she and Gene were living with her dad. Shari's girlfriend in the neighborhood had a Newfoundland that came over to play with the Caiola's dog. "He would come and put his head through the window and I knew I'd have Newfs," Shari said.

Bowie is learning to play by observing Margeaux. He likes to chew bones and play tug. Shari

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Expert Excerpts

Rabies

Rabies is a viral disease that affects mammals, including dogs and humans. Once symptoms appear, it is almost always fatal. The virus is most commonly spread through the bite of an infected animal, while other forms of transmission are rare. After a bite, the virus multiplies in the tissue near the wound, then travels through the nerves to the spinal cord and on to the brain. From there, it spreads to the salivary glands and other organs. When it reaches the salivary glands, the virus can be passed on through saliva. Rabies does not survive long outside a mammal's body. In North America, animals such as skunks, raccoons, foxes, and bats serve as the primary carriers of the virus.

When symptoms appear

The time it takes for symptoms to appear—known as the incubation period—can vary widely. In dogs, it typically ranges from about 3 to 24 weeks or longer, depending on how close the bite is to the brain. Bites nearer to the brain or spinal cord allow the virus to reach the nervous system more quickly, leading to faster onset of symptoms. Once clinical signs develop, death usually occurs within about 10 days.

Symptoms

After a bite or scratch from a rabid animal, the disease typically moves through three stages, although some

Perfect for Cool Spring Nights - 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.



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The Head Tilt - continued from page 1

have sharper hearing than humans, the structure of their ears can make it harder for them to detect sounds from every direction as clearly as we do. Dogs might also tilt their head if they experience a sound for the first time, out of curiosity. High-pitched noises such as ambulances, fire trucks, or even squeaky toys can also cause a head tilt.

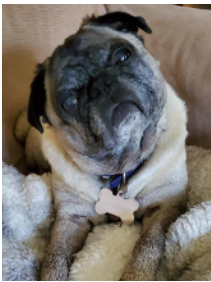
Better Vision

Vision may also play a role in head tilting. For dogs with longer snouts, tilting the head can improve their view when trying to focus on something. In some cases, your Newf may simply be trying to see you more clearly while you're interacting. Dogs depend heavily on visual cues—like facial expressions and body language—to understand us, rather than relying only on the words we say.

Age and vision may also be a factor. Puppies with underdeveloped vision and older dogs who may have clouded or reduced vision may tilt their heads to see better.

Word Processing

Your Newf associates word with action, such as walk, ride, and dinner. Scientific studies have concluded that dogs that learned to associate objects with words tilted their heads more often when they heard a familiar name. If you get a head tilt when you ask your Newf if they want to go for a ride or want a treat, they have made the connection between the word and the action, and since owners almost always follow through with the question that was asked, this leads us to...



Positive Reinforcement

For dogs, a head tilt usually mean treats, pets, attention, or other desired outcomes. Positive reinforcement is one of the most effective ways to train dogs. In many cases, dogs tilt their heads because our reactions have encouraged the behavior. Since dogs tend to repeat actions that earn a positive response, our reactions can make head tilting happen more often.

Reacting to Your Voice

Dogs can pick up on emotion in your voice, and a head tilt may be their way of saying, "I'm listening—and I'm tuned in." They're especially attentive when you sound excited, stressed, or use a playful, affectionate tone. It's part of how dogs have evolved to bond with humans by becoming highly skilled at reading our cues.

When Can Dogs Start Head Titling

It takes several weeks or sometimes a few months for puppies to figure out how ears and attention work, so you may not see a head tilt from your puppy until they are between 8 and 16 weeks old. By this time, Their ears are fully developed and can rotate independently and they have begun learning word associations. They have also discovered positive reinforcement and that their actions can get desired responses.

<https://www.caninejournal.com/why-do-dogs-tilt-their-heads/>

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Confusion

That head tilt might be your dog's version of raising an eyebrow—showing they're focused and trying to make sense of things. You say "stay," but you're grabbing the leash and heading for the door? That's confusing. The tilt is their way of sorting through those mixed signals and figuring out your contradictions.

When There May Be Cause For Concern

When you notice head tilting without sounds, commands, or your Newf focusing on you, it's time to take heed. Persistent or continuous head tilting can be related to health concerns.

Vestibular Disease (also called Doggy Vertigo)

Vestibular disease impacts a dog's balance and sense of orientation, making them feel persistently dizzy. It's most common in older dogs and often appears suddenly.

Other symptoms include:

- Circling
- Stumbling or trouble walking or standing
- Leaning to one side
- Rapid eye movement (nystagmus)
- Vomiting or lack of appetite
- Disorientation
- Drooling

If your Newf has a head tilt and other symptoms, visit your veterinarian for a diagnosis and treatment plan. Dogs with vestibular disease often recover fully, especially when the underlying cause is identified and addressed.

Ear Infections

Dogs with floppy ears like Newfs are prone to ear infections. An infection in the inner or middle ear can disrupt your dog's balance, leading to head tilting, ear scratching, or changes in behavior such as irritability.

Other signs include:

- Foul odor or discharge from the ear

Breeds Most Likely to Head Tilt

Golden Retrievers
Border Collies
German Shepherds
Labrador Retrievers
Cocker Spaniels
Collies
Borzoi

These breeds are often very attuned to vocal cues, including commands, tone of voice, and unfamiliar words. Their longer muzzles may also prompt them to tilt their heads to get a clearer view of your face while you're interacting.

Breeds Less Likely to Head Tilt

Bulldogs
Pugs
Boston Terriers
French Bulldogs
Boxers

With flatter faces and broader fields of vision, these dogs usually don't need to tilt their heads as much to see or hear clearly.

Most importantly, personality matters more than breed. A short-snouted dog may tilt her head frequently while a longer nosed dog seldom does.

<https://www.caninejournal.com/why-do-dogs-tilt-their-heads/>

The Head Tilt - continued from page 5

- Redness or swelling
- Head shaking, scratching, or rubbing

Neurological Issues

Inflammation in the brain, trauma, or even a tumor can also cause a head tilt. In addition to a head tilt, neurological issues may show up as seizures, changes in behavior, or vision loss.

Paying attention to behavioral cues from your Newf will help determine if the head tilting is response to his environment, or something more serious that requires medical attention.

Resources/More Information:

<https://www.caninejournal.com/why-do-dogs-tilt-their-heads/>

<https://www.petmd.com/dog/behavior/why-do-dogs-tilt-their-heads>

<https://thevetdesk.com/pet-behavior/dogs/why-dogs-tilt-their-heads/>

<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/advice/why-do-dogs-tilt-their-heads/>

"Expert Excerpts" Rabies - continued from page 3

dogs may only show signs of one or two.

Prodromal Phase: In the early stage, a dog's behavior often changes noticeably. Normally calm dogs may become restless or irritable, while active dogs may seem anxious or withdrawn. This phase usually lasts 2–3 days.

Excitative Phase (furious rabies): Some dogs skip this stage, but those that don't may become highly agitated and aggressive. They might also develop unusual eating behaviors, such as chewing or ingesting non-food items like dirt or rocks. Death can occur during severe seizures, or the disease may progress to the next stage.

Paralytic Phase: Many dogs move directly into this stage. Weakness and paralysis develop, affecting the limbs, facial muscles, and ability to swallow. Drooling or foaming at the mouth is common due to throat paralysis, and dogs may be unable to eat or drink. Owners sometimes mistake this for something lodged in the throat. Eventually, the dog becomes comatose and passes away.

Other symptoms include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite.

Resources/More Information:

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

https://www.petmd.com/dog/conditions/neurological/c_multi_rabies

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

Next month: Prevention, Treatment and Contagiousness

Newfoundland Club of America (NCA) Rescue Day

Don't miss Rescue Day at the NCA National Specialty at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick, Rhode Island on May 8!

There will be games, activities, demonstrations, treats, and the highlight of the day, the Newf Rescue Parade!

**Newfoundland
Rescue Day!**

Friday, May 8th • Crowne Plaza Warwick

- 10:00 AM – 2:45 PM Photobooth
- 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM Arts & Crafts
- 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM Games
- 12:00 PM Groomer Presentation
- 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM Doggy Ice Cream Truck
- 1:00 PM Trainer Tips & Tricks
- 3:30 PM Raffle Drawing
- 3:30 PM Rescue Parade Line Up
- 4:00 PM Rescue Parade

Say Cheese!

Yum!

Fun, Learning & Rescue Love!

Don't Miss Out! Join Us
for a Day of Paw-some Activities!

"Recently Adopted" Bowie- continued from page 2



and Gene will soon be opening their pool, so Bowie and Margeaux will have plenty of opportunities for swimming and water fun. Bowie is also being introduced to new experiences and has walked around town a bit. It has become clear that he loves people, especially the Caiola's. "He's really happy," Shari said. "We're so pleased he's here."

May 1st is National Purebred Dog Day. Although Newfoundlands are recognized on their own day on March 23, it's another great excuse to celebrate these loyal, gentle, friendly, lovable, giant dogs. And if your Newf is from TNP or another rescue, you have another reason to celebrate on May 20, National Rescue Dog Day!

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




That Newfoundland Place
Rescue With A Heart

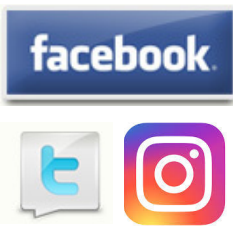
CATHY'S CREW



Support TNP through Amex Round-up

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

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Order Pet Food at **chewy.com** and they'll donate \$20 to our cause!



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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*