

Newfie News



That
Newfoundland
Place
Rescue With A Heart

June 2026

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Is Eating Grass Normal for Your Newf?

You have likely seen your Newf munching on the lawn during a walk or while playing outside and perhaps wondered why. The truth is, there is limited research on exactly why dogs eat grass; however, scientists do have some theories as to why dogs eat grass, and in most cases it's normal behavior and not cause for concern.

Instinctive Behavior

Dogs are descendants of wolves, and research on wolves shows that 2-10% of their stomach contents may contain plant material. Animals of similar species as dogs, including wolves, jackals, foxes, and coyotes, have been observed to eat grass in the wild.

Diet Deficiencies

Your Newf may be missing fiber and supplementing by eating grass or plants. But, while your dog may think the greens are adding nutrients, grass mainly passes through the dog's intestinal tract undigested, so there is no nutritional benefit. If your dog eats grass excessively, your veterinarian may consider the possibility of pica—a condition in which dogs compulsively consume non-food items such as rocks, dirt, paper, fabric, etc. In some cases, this behavior can be linked to nutritional deficiencies. © mutznutz.ie



Hunger

A 2007 study found that grass eating in dogs was linked to hunger levels and time of day. Dogs were less likely to eat grass after a meal and more likely to do so beforehand. The behavior also became less common later in the day. Researchers concluded that eating grass is generally a normal canine behavior and not necessarily a sign of illness.

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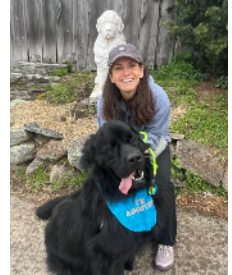
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Interested in adopting from TNP?

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.

Recently Adopted

Two-and-a-half year old **Buddy** was adopted by Sara & Craig Smith of Carlisle, Massachusetts. Watch for updates in future newsletters and the TNP Facebook page.



Emmy Boo (now Maggie) was adopted by Dana & Randy Wooden of Florence, New Jersey, and has a new canine brother, Theo! Check out future newsletters and the TNP Facebook page for updates.

First TNP Open House of 2026

Be sure to attend the first Open House of the season on June 7 from Noon to 3pm. See old friends, meet new ones, and visit with TNP staff, alumni, and Newfs! Get your questions answered about the breed and fill out an application for adoption.

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

Your dog - Newf or otherwise - will have the opportunity to become a **Canine Good Citizen** as testing will be available on site. Canine Good Citizen is a 10-skill test that teaches good manners to dogs and responsible dog ownership to their owners. The test includes: greeting a stranger calmly, sitting politely for petting, tolerating being examined and groomed, walking on a loose leash without pulling, sit and down on command, coming when called, remaining calm in the presence of distractions, being comfortable being left with a trusted person, staying in place, and interacting well with other dogs.

Other Open House dates are:

August 23 - Grooming demonstration

October 4 - Cookout

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.

All Open Houses are at 554 Pucker St , Coventry, CT

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

Expert Excerpts

Rabies

Rabies is a viral disease that affects mammals, including dogs and humans. The virus is most commonly spread through the bite of an infected animal. Once symptoms appear, the disease is almost always fatal.

How is rabies diagnosed?

Rabies can only be confirmed through direct examination of brain tissue, which means it cannot be diagnosed in a living animal. If rabies is strongly suspected, or if an animal showing signs of the disease dies suddenly, a veterinarian may recommend testing brain samples. In cases where a person may have been exposed, submitting the animal's brain for testing may be required.

Prevention

Vaccination is the cornerstone of rabies prevention. Vaccination promotes the production of antibodies but is only effective if given before the virus enters the nervous system. Modern rabies vaccines for dogs, cats, horses, and ferrets are extremely safe and effective. All dogs should be vaccinated between the ages of 12 and 16 weeks with boosters. Rabies vaccination is required by law in most states.

What is the treatment for rabies?

There is no cure for rabies, however, an anti-rabies serum can help stop the disease from progressing if it's given

Don't Miss Out On 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.



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It's Tasty

Some dogs may simply enjoy the taste and texture of fresh, damp grass, especially in the spring when new growth appears or when they're feeling thirsty. Be sure to keep a bowl of fresh, cool water available outside to help keep your dog hydrated.

Soothing an Upset Stomach?

Another study examined dogs who were fed a normal diet and one containing fructooligosaccharide (FOS) - which is extracted from sugar beets and passes undigested through the small intestines and into the large intestine, where it ferments - which caused watery, loose stool. The dogs fed the standard diets ate more grass than those fed the FOS that had diarrhea, indicating that dogs do not eat grass to sooth gastrointestinal upset. It should be noted however, that in this study, the diarrhea originated in the large intestines, so there is no evidence on grass eating for dogs with gastrointestinal upset in their stomach or small intestines.

Do Dogs Eat Grass to Vomit?

Despite the lack of studies on why dogs eat grass, there is evidence that most dogs do not eat grass to vomit. One study questioned students studying to be veterinarians and pet parents about their dogs' grass eating habits and almost all reported that their dogs ate grass and almost none reported that their dogs regularly vomited after doing so. There are times, however, when dogs can induce vomiting by eating grass. This happens when they swallow grass as quickly as possible, barely even chewing it. It's thought that long, unchewed blades of grass may irritate the throat and trigger vomiting. If your Newf eats grass, vomits, and then acts normal afterward, she may have simply relieved whatever was upsetting her stomach.

Curiosity

One of the ways dogs experience the world is with their mouth, which is why puppies chew on everything. Eating grass may be something that they try, and they may even learn to like the taste.



© mixkit.co

Attention

Just like any other behavior that elicits attention from humans, Newfs may learn that their owner may talk to them more or offer treats to get them to stop eating grass. The Newf will undoubtedly find the snack tastier and eat grass to get the treat.

Boredom

If your dog spends time alone in the yard and eats grass, boredom may be the cause. You may be able to reduce the behavior through positive reinforcement training, regular exercise, and more interactive time together outdoors, such as playing fetch.

Is It Safe For Dogs To Eat Grass?

Grass itself is not harmful to dogs, but what may be on the grass can pose safety risks.

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Pesticides, insecticides, and other chemicals can be toxic to animals. Dogs that have ingested grass treated with pesticides may show symptoms such as vomiting, nausea, excessive salivation, diarrhea, and decreased appetite. If you think your dog has consumed grass that was treated with pesticides, seek veterinary care right away.

Grass can be contaminated by trace amounts of feces from other animals which can contain parasites, bacteria, and viruses. These can cause a variety of symptoms including diarrhea, vomiting, lethargy, and in some cases, such as parvovirus, can be fatal if left untreated.

Also be aware that, since grass is not digestible, a significant amount of grass eaten could get stuck in your Newf's intestinal tract.

When A Trip To The Vet Is In Order

If your Newf shows any signs of illness before or after eating grass, it's a good idea to have him examined by a veterinarian to make sure he's healthy. Or, if he eats grass and vomits multiple times or consumes large quantities of grass, you may want to have him checked to ensure he did not ingest something he shouldn't have and has the necessary vitamins and nutrients required for a Newfoundland.



© www.vranimals.com

Discouraging Your Newf From Eating Grass

If your dog eats grass from time to time and doesn't show any signs of illness, there may be no need for concern. However, if the behavior becomes frequent, excessive, or involves chemically treated lawns, it's best to discourage it. Try these ideas:

- Keep your dog on a leash when walking through grassy areas to gently redirect her away from grass if she starts eating it.
- Use positive reinforcement to encourage alternate behaviors.
- Plan your outings for right after mealtime, when your dog's stomach is already full with nutritious food or consider feeding smaller, more frequent meals just before letting your dog outside in the yard or going on a walk.
- When your dog is on the lawn, give him a safe chew toy.

Since some researchers believe grass-eating is a normal behavior in dogs, you may want to offer grass that you've grown yourself. Doing so can help reduce the risk of your Newf ingesting toxins, parasite eggs, or larvae.

Resources/More Information:

<https://www.petmd.com/dog/behavior/why-do-dogs-eat-grass>

<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/advice/why-does-my-dog-eat-grass/>

<https://thetvetdesk.com/ask-the-vet/dogs/why-dogs-eat-grass/>

<https://www.hillspet.com/dog-care/behavior-appearance/why-do-dogs-eat-grass?>

"Expert Excerpts" Rabies - continued from page 3

early, before symptoms develop. This treatment contains antibodies specifically designed to target the virus.

Can I be infected with rabies?

Rabies is spread to humans through the bite of an infected animal, as the virus is found in the animal's saliva for only a limited period. If you are bitten by any animal, the wound should be washed immediately and thoroughly with soap and water, and medical attention should be sought right away. Any bite has the potential for rabies exposure. Animals of concern include stray or feral dogs and cats, wild animals, and unvaccinated pets - including those not current on their vaccinations - especially if they display unusual behaviors such as fearlessness around people, excessive drooling, or aggression.

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/>

More Than Just Rescuing Newfoundlands

Here at That Newfoundland Place we do not stop at just rescuing these dogs. Many times we help the owners by providing food, assisting with vet bills, mentoring, hiring a professional trainer, etc. Our goal is to try to keep the dog(s) with the owner whenever possible. We are available "24"/"7"

Here are some of the other things we do:

- Helping people who are forced to give up their dogs
- Taking in dogs left in shelters
- Boarding rescue dogs
- Rehabilitating rescue dogs
- Hosting Open House events so people can meet dogs looking for homes and we can meet people looking to adopt the dogs
- Locating deserving families to adopt the rescue dogs
- Maintaining contact with our old and new friends who have adopted the wonderful rescues in order to offer assistance, advice, and support
- Offering a sanctuary to old or infirm dogs who cannot be placed

Please check our Facebook page and read our monthly Newsletter.

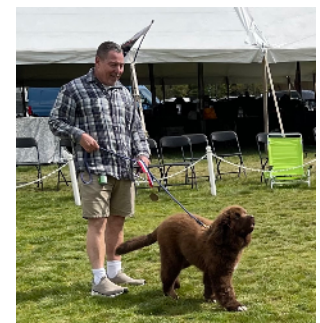
Presidents are Ed Derench and Missy Carbone. Founded by Cathy Derench who will forever be remembered.

A recent example of the work TNP does is a rescue of five mongrel puppies that the owners were trying to sell at a grocery store in California. After a conversation, the

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Newfoundland Club of America (NCA) Rescue Day

The NCA National Specialty was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick, Rhode Island in early May and May 8 was designated Rescue Day. The highlight of the day included several rescued Newfoundlands parading to center ring to receive a medal and a round of applause from the crowd.



More Than Just Rescuing Newfoundlands - continued from page 6

owners relinquished the puppies. who were brought to a shelter in Los Angeles and the parents were spayed and neutered the very next day, staying with the owners.



Thinking of leaving a bequest to TNP?

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

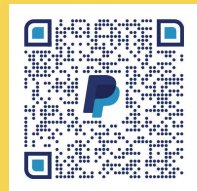
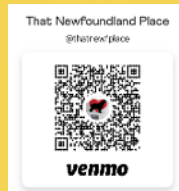
Payment Address:
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Coventry, CT 06238

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
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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.
554 Pucker Street
Coventry CT 06238



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