



Established 1836

# SO YOU THINK YOU WANT A NEWFOUNDLAND?

A guide for prospective owners

Published by The Newfoundland Club © 2019

The Newfoundland Club, Officers and Committee cannot be held responsible for the quality of any puppy purchased from the breeder of your choice.

## Newfoundlands are ...

Big, hairy, clumsy, enthusiastic, hungry, usually slobbery, frequently wet, often muddy, sometimes naughty, invariably in your way, generally 'deaf' to your commands and always demanding of your time and affection. BUT they are also a joy to the lives of those people daft enough to be devoted to them.

If you are house-proud, lead a busy life or are out at work full time then this is not the breed for you. They need love, attention, good quality food, regular grooming, more love, basic obedience training, space to run and a loving 'family'. This is not a breed to live in a kennel or be left alone for long periods of time, nor shut outside or in another room. They demand the company of humans and are happiest living as one of the family - but with all the doors wide open please. BE WARNED... They can become addictive, and many people have more than one.

Newfoundlands love... being wet, muddy & slobbery... and sharing your bed!

# History of the Newfoundland Breed ...

The Newfoundland developed on the island from which it takes its name. It is almost certainly a combination of the ancient native Indian dogs and the many European breeds which were carried across the Atlantic by explorers and fishermen from the 15th Century onwards.

By the end of the 17th Century, this 'cocktail' had stabilised into a large, web-footed, thick-coated dog, capable of draught & water work. Its useful qualities were soon recognised well beyond the North American continent, as was its equable temperament, which meant it worked well in the company of other dogs and was easy to train. So much so it was imported in considerable numbers throughout Europe, these dogs soon attracted the attention of the wealthy, who brought them to ornament their estates and entertain (and watch over) their children.

Many tales have been told of the courage displayed by Newfoundlands in their lifesaving exploits, and this attracted the attention of a large number of artists, who have portrayed the dogs in paint, stone, bronze and porcelain over the last two centuries.

The breed prospered in the United Kingdom until 1914 and again in 1939, when its numbers were almost fatally depleted by wartime restrictions. Since the 1950s there has been a steady increase in numbers and popularity, whilst still remaining a relatively uncommon breed, this is not least because of their great size and fondness for playing around in mud and water which make them unsuitable for most homes.



# The Newfoundland Club...

The Newfoundland Club was founded in 1886, by a group of gentlemen eager to promote the breed and also preserve its working capabilities. To that end, a few years later a Breed Standard was approved and remains to this day, with very few alterations, the standard by which the Newfoundland is judges world-wide.

In spite of difficulties during and after World War 1 and 2, the Club has remained intact. Recently, a considerable expansion of activities has taken place and revived interest in working dogs.

The club seeks to serve all its members, whatever their chosen activity may be, running multiple shows throughout the year, obedience, water and draught training and test days, health seminars, judging seminars and plenty of fun events, there is something for everybody!

The Newfoundland Club is particularly committed to safe-guarding and improving the health of the breed and working to reduce the impact of hereditary diseases.



# Is this the breed for you???

The beautiful, cuddly, fluffy bundle of love you see at the breeder's home will become 35kg + of energy within a few months. That lovely coat sheds hair everywhere, no outfit in your wardrobe will be without its sprinkling, you will leave hairs wherever you go and every plate of food and pot of yogurt will contain at least one!

A Newfoundland could still be acting like a puppy when they are 2 years old weighing as much as 7 stone (45kg) and standing at 25+ inches (60cm) at the shoulder. Gentle and loving they may be, but the frail, elderly and very young may be knocked aside in their joyful rush to greet them!



This is why basic obedience training is so important and should be started from day one.

Newfoundlands are not all like 'peas in a pod'; height can range from 24-30+ inches (60-75cm) at the shoulder; weight may vary from 45-80kg (7-13 stone) at maturity; heads can vary from long and narrow to short and broad; body shapes can differ too, as does the coat density, length and texture. Accepted colours in the UK are black, brown and white & black (or Landseer). They are large dogs and have the appetite to match; they require a good quality food to keep them healthy and this doesn't come cheap.

Veterinary costs will be higher than for a smaller breed, worming tablets alone will cost at least £20 a year. If medicines are needed the doses will be bigger and so will the bills - this breed isn't for those on a tight budget.



Whilst most Newfoundlands are happy at times to just lie dozing, never forget that this is a working breed and as such, they should receive regular exercise. With this in mind, you must have a safe, appropriate place where you can exercise your mature dog. You need to have plenty of time and energy, enjoy the outdoors (the colder and wetter the better!) and be physically fit enough to cope.

# Where can you see Newfoundlands???

Try to meet as many Newfoundlands and their owners as you can- but remember to not wear your best clothes! It is a good idea to visit some of the many events (shows, fun days, water trials, carting tests, training sessions) held by the breed clubs and training groups throughout the year and country.

At a dog show you will see beautiful, well groomed Newfoundlands - but this Won't give you a true representation of what one is like when its wet, muddy, covered in leaves and twigs after a run in the park!

The Newfoundland Club runs a Breed Liaison Scheme to put prospective owners in touch with Newfoundland owners in their area. These people are happy to spend time discussing all aspects of the breed and provide an opportunity for you to see adult dogs living in a home, as part of a family. Do this before you commit yourself- a puppy will only be fluffy and cuddly for a few short weeks, they will be a ten stone adult for many years! Its amazing how much bigger a Newfoundland looks inside a house than it does outside... and how much smaller a house seems with a Newfoundland in it!

## What you should know before you buy ...

When you buy a Newfoundland, you buy a dream - it is up to you to make sure the dream dog doesn't become your worst nightmare. You will have a responsibility to your dog, your family, the local community and other dog owners.

Do not even consider buying a puppy which has left its original breeder and travelled to somewhere else to be sold. Breeders who can't be bothered to sell their pups individually to new owners, but who hide behind dealers are 'puppy farmers' and must be avoided at all costs! Dealers will have a range of 'farmed' puppies readily available; they are renowned for selling sickly puppies which go on to develop physical and behavioural problems.

You should do everything possible to ensure your dog has a healthy and happy life:-

- Learn about basic dog care, there are several good books available (listed at the end of this guide)
- Everybody wants a healthy dog, so it is wise to be aware of any future problems and make sure that the parents of your puppy have had the relevant health tests, which we will look into more later.
- Correct socialisation is vital.
- Basic training is a must- visit a training class before you take your puppy to see what methods they use. Remember- you cannot force a dog that may weigh more than your, he has to want to obey you.
- Dog mess is a health hazard, so you should always clean up after your dog- just because no-one else seems to isn't an excuse! Everybody will know whose done it (the size is a dead give-away!) and in some places, fouling is an offence punishable by a fine.



With the increasingly anti-dog attitude of society, it is essential that you know the current laws about dog ownership & comply with them. (The present Dangerous Dog Act is worded so that even a friendly dog, bounding up to a stranger to say hello can be classed as 'dangerously out of control' and some Newfoundlands do this as a matter of course)



# Health Awareness ...

There are many reasons why you must make a very careful and informed choice before you pick your puppy. If you are tempted to buy a sickly puppy, you are risking anxiety, heartache, a lot of nursing and great expense; and you may never have the happy, healthy dog you dreamed of.

Puppies should be wormed every two weeks until twelve weeks old (or they are free of worms) then monthly until six months of age. It is recommended that all adult dogs should be wormed at least twice a year, preferably four times a year (every 3 months) if you have children or if your pet comes into contact with farm animals. Consult your vet for the correct medication and dosage.

Your puppy should be vaccinated against Parvovirus, Distemper, Hepatitis and Leptospirosis, and given an annual booster. Some vets now choose to Titre test the dog annually to check if a booster vaccination is needed but it's always best to follow your vet's advice.

Insurance is available, policies vary in price, cover and availability. Preventative treatments such as worming and vaccinations aren't usually covered, neither is neutering or costs involved with breeding. Due to their size and how quickly vet bills can stack up, insurance is always recommended so you are covered in case of an emergency.



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There is no breed without health problems, but Newfoundlands are generally healthy - there are many 12 year olds who lead fit and happy lives. However, there are certain problems within the breed that are passed on in families. Some of these problems can be detected at an early age and reputable breeders will have their breeding stock assessed before they are bred from. These conditions are detectable by simple screening tests which give a grade or score.

New screening tests are becoming available for many hereditary diseases but there are many diseases that dogs may suffer from where there is no screening test or little is known about why that condition has developed. It is

sensible to choose a puppy where the relatives live long, healthy lives and the breeder has done all they can to produce a happy healthy puppy.

Remember that dog shows are beauty contests, not health contests - a dog may be successful in the show ring despite having hereditary health problems.

## Hip Scoring:

In common with all large dogs, Newfoundlands can have problems with their hips, where the joint doesn't form correctly. This condition is called Hip Dysplasia.

Once the bones mature, the hips can be X-rayed to detect Hip Dysplasia. A scheme is jointly run by the British Veterinary Association (BVA) and The Kennel Club (KC). Dogs must be at least 12 months of age before their hips can be scored under this scheme;

X-rays are sent away to be examined by a panel of specialist vets who assess the xrays and assign points for ill-fitting bones and abnormal wear of the joint in each hip. The scale of points is from 0-53 per hip joint. Perfect hip scores 0/0 (0 for the right hip and 0 for the left hip) are rare in Newfoundlands but not unknown.

The higher the score, the more likely the dog will develop severe, painful, crippling arthritis in later life. The average total point score for both hips added together is gradually reducing and currently the median score is 11, it was 31 in 1995. Breeders looking to reduce the risk of hip dysplasia in the dogs they breed will look to only mate dogs and bitches with scores in this region.

There is no guarantee that breeding a dog and bitch who both have 0/0 scores will produce a litter of 0/0 scoring offspring as how the dog is reared in the time from birth up to the date of scoring can greatly affect the score, but the lower the scores of the parents, the better the chances of having a sound Newfoundland.

The breeder should also be able to tell you the hip scores for many of the previous generations of the dogs they are planning to breed from.

A copy of an official Hip Dysplasia Scheme form can be found at the back of this booklet, a breeder should be able to provide you the relevant form for each of their dogs that has been scored.

## Heart Tests:

Several breeds of dog are known to be prone to heart problems. The Newfoundland Club recommends that breeders screen all of their breeding stock to try to eradicate a hereditary problem called 'Sub-aortic Stenosis'. This condition can cause a heart murmur and in severe cases can lead to the sudden death of a young dog.

- A basic screening test is for a Veterinary Cardiologist to listen to the dogs heart with a stethoscope, to hear if there is a murmur.
- If no murmur is heard, the dog's heart is graded 0/6. The loudest murmur is graded 6/6. 88% of Newfoundlands do not have a murmur.
- A more accurate test is a 'Colour Flow Echo-Doppler' which is an ultrasound examination of the heart. This is a specialised technique and for the results to be acceptable, must be performed by either a Veterinary Cardiologist (Heart specialist) with a Diploma in Veterinary Cardiology or a Veterinary Surgeon accredited to perform the examination by the Veterinary Cardiovascular Society.
- During this type of examination, the speed of the blood passing out of the heart (via the Aortic Valve) can be measured and the valve itself can be seen. In a healthy heart, the blood speed, called the Aortic Flow Rate, is 1.7 metres per second or less and the valve shows 'no structural abnormalities'.
- The Newfoundland Club believes all breeding stock should have the Colour Flow Echo Doppler examination. (Club rules state that stud dogs belonging to a club member and first mated after March 2000 must have had an Echo Doppler examination)
- The heart test results of Newfoundlands tested since March 2000 under the Veterinary Cardiovascular Society official scheme are published by The Newfoundland Club (and results of many tested in the preceding 5 years)
- A copy of the official Veterinary Cardiovascular Society Certificate of Heart Testing can be found at the rear of this booklet.



# Choosing a breeder ...

Don't rush in! The more homework you do, the higher your chances of getting the right Newfoundland for you.

Once you have done your research and met as many Newfoundlands as possible and have decided this is the breed for you, ask the owners of the dogs you admire who the breeder was. This will give you an idea of where to start looking for your puppy. Contact two or three breeders and arrange to go and visit them, be prepared to travel, the right dog may not be on your doorstep. Be wary of breeders who are reluctant or will not allow you to visit and see their dogs, unless they have a very young litter at the time. Remember that they are no doubt busy people and arrange a time that is convenient for both parties.

Allow plenty of time when you go to see a breeder. You may feel slightly embarrassed about visiting their home - don't be, because this is the *only* way to find out what you need to know. An ethical breeder will welcome such an opportunity - to get to know you, discuss all aspects of owning a Newfoundland and to assure themselves that you can provide a suitable home for one of their puppies.

It is not a good idea to visit a breeder for the first time when they have a litter of puppies, especially if you have children. There is nothing more irresistible than a litter of Newfoundland puppies and you will be tempted to buy, despite all of your good intentions. Also, the breeder will be very busy at this time and the puppies will distract you from the purpose of your visit, which is to find out as much as possible about the breeder and their dogs.

There are many advantages in choosing a puppy from a breeder rather than a dealer. You will be able to see where the puppies will be reared, your eyes and nose will tell you if the premises are generally clean. If it is not do not visit any more premises before you have bathed and changed clothes to avoid passing on anything to other breeders stock.

Do NOT persuade yourself that you must buy a puppy to save it from the environment its currently in. The puppy handicapped by a poor start in life is not the dog for you and is only encouraging unscrupulous breeders to continue breeding more dogs to line their pockets.

Please do not be overcome for sympathy for a puppy that looks ill in any way and harden your heart against suggestions that a puppy will have to be destroyed if you do not buy it. Defective and ill puppies are the breeders responsibility, not yours!

***Good, strong, healthy puppies from a caring breeder may need to be waited for - a 'puppy farmer' or dealer's favourite customer is an impatient would-be owner.***

## Questions to ask a breeder and points to consider ...

A caring breeder will welcome any question and answer them gladly and truthfully. Your chosen breeder should become a friend- to share the good times with and help you through the bad ones.

How much will the puppy cost and what is included in the price? Insurance? Inoculations? Food? Also remember that all puppies must be Microchipped before leaving the breeder, this is the law and came into effect as of 6th April 2016.

What is the feeding regime?

How many times a day? What food? How much? If you wish to change the food your puppy is on firstly discuss this with the breeder and if they agree then ensure it is done gradually to allow the puppies digestive system to adjust and wait until the puppy is settled into its new environment.

Will the puppy be registered with The Kennel Club?

If not, the puppy may be a cross-breed and you will have no way of tracking their true ancestors or knowing their health test results.

Will the puppies registration be endorsed with any restrictions on breeding or exportation?

For these endorsements to be binding, you must sign to say you accept them when you purchase your puppy. The breeder is the only person who can remove these endorsements. Most, if not all, reputable breeders will place these endorsements on the dogs registration to ensure the puppy isn't exported to another country without them knowing and that the dog doesn't end up being bred from until the health tests are completed. The breeder will be able to tell you when and if these endorsements can be removed, some may never be lifted.

Which bitch can I expect my puppy to be from?

Do you think this bitch is physically healthy enough to provide you with a healthy puppy with a good temperament?

Some useful questions to help you decide (Answers 1-5 can be verified by The Kennel Club)

1. How old is she, and how many litters has she had?  
The Newfoundland Club recommends that a bitch should not have a litter before she is 2 years old, or after her 7th birthday.
2. How many puppies did she have in each litter and when was her last litter born?  
The Newfoundland Club recommends that a bitch should not have more than 1 litter in 12 months.
3. What is her hip score?  
Ask for a copy of the certificate.
4. What are her parent's hip scores?  
Ask to see the certificates
5. Have any of her previous puppies been hip scored? What are their hip scores?
6. Can I see any of her previous puppies? Are they still alive?
7. Has she had an Echo-Doppler examination of her heart by a Veterinary Cardiologist with a Diploma or equivalent in Veterinary Cardiology?  
Ask for a copy of the certificate.
8. Have her parents and litter mates been heart tested? What are their results?  
Ask to see their certificates.
9. Can I spend time with the bitch so I can see what her temperament is like?  
She should be friendly, responsive and eager to greet you. Steer clear of puppies from a bitch that is hesitant, doesn't like being handled, or is unfriendly - she may pass these personality traits onto her offspring.

Which dog will be the father of the litter?

You need to know whether this dog is suitable to produce healthy puppies with a good temperament.

How old is he? Where can I see him and any of his previous puppies?

Asks questions 3-8 above for the stud dog too. A reputable breeder should have these details readily available from the stud dog owner.

How frequently do you have a litter for sale?

Some breeders may not have a litter available for some time and they may also have a waiting list in place which means you may have to wait longer than you may like. Reputable breeders will try to place to right dog with the right owners.

Will you take the dog back if I can no longer care for it?

Responsible breeders will take back a dog and re-home a Newfoundland they have bred if you are no longer able to care for it. Most will put this into the contract of sale to avoid a dog they have bred ending up in rescue or in the wrong hands.

How old will the puppy be when I collect it?

No Newfoundland should leave its mother before it is seven weeks (49 days) old. If older than 8 weeks ensure the breeder has well socialised the puppy with humans and given them many varied experiences and plenty of attention.

Where will the litter be born and raised?

They should be born in a quiet place, but be brought up as part of a busy, lively household.

Where do your puppies play and how much human contact do they have?

A puppies future behaviour will be influenced by its mother, its relationship with its litter mates and its owners; the more a puppy has been handled, the more likely it is to respond to training. Puppies raised with little human contact can be difficult to train.

How do you socialise your puppies?

The experiences that a puppy has between three and twelve weeks of age (early socialisation) are critical in the development of their personality.

Will the puppies be checked by a Vet before they go into their new homes?

Every puppy should have a veterinary check within 48 hours of birth and again before leaving its breeder.

If I have any problems can I come to you for help and advice?

The answer to this question should always be YES.

In addition the breeder should tell you about bathing, grooming, training and particularly about breed traits such as hand-holding and a fascination with water.

The breeder should be able to give you a 5 generation pedigree of a proposed litter, marked with each dog's hip score and coat colour.

Ask the breeder to show you how to groom a Newfoundland. To keep a Newfoundlands coat and skin healthy, it must be groomed right down to the skin over the whole body, and not just the surface hairs smoothed.

Ask for the names and contact details of a few of their previous puppy owners and talk to them.

You should expect a breeder to ask you many questions. They will want to satisfy themselves that you have the knowledge, time, lifestyle, facilities and income to care properly for one of the puppies for the rest of their lives.

The preferred colours for Newfoundlands in the UK are solid black (a white patch on the chest and/or a small amount of white on the tips of toes or tip of the tail is fine), solid brown (with some white, as above) or Landseer (a white dog with black marking). Other colour combinations occur fairly commonly, such as white & brown, grey, or solid black or brown with more white than desirable. These colours should not be sought by careful breeders and in no such instance should a breeder be charging more for a 'rare colour' puppy.

Whilst at the breeders house, look out for the following:

- Are the premises clean?
- Is there enough space for the number of dogs present?
- Would you keep a dog under these conditions?
- Do the dogs look happy, healthy & well cared for?
- Are the dogs friendly and eager to meet you?
- Are there dogs on the premises that you are not invited to see?
- Notice the attitude of the owner of the dogs and the dogs to the owner- is it a happy relationship?

# What to look for in a puppy?

The most useful piece of advise you can have, is to please buy from a reputable breeder, only after seeing the mother with all of her puppies

## NEVER VISIT PUPPIES IF YOU HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH A SICK DOG!

Once your chosen litter is born, try to visit them at least twice - but not before they are four weeks old.

By four to five weeks of age, every puppy should be able to stand, walk, run a little and hold its head up squarely.

As the puppies run an and play they should be able to balance to go to the loo and have well co-ordinated movements.



Strong puppies are sturdy and compact. Their coat should be dense, soft, fluffy and clean- be suspicious of bare patches of scabs. Make sure the skin is supple and a little loose.

The skull should be reasonably wide between the ears, with a broad muzzle. The ears will look a little large compared with the size of the head; they should be clean and pink inside.

They eyes should be clear and bright, not cloudy or weepy. The inner lining of the lower eyelid should not show when the puppy is fully awake.

The nose should be clean, cold and free from discharge.

Run your index finger gently along the front teeth - the ones in the bottom jaw should never be in front of those of the top jaw. They also shouldn't be too far behind the upper ones.

The front legs should be straight and parallel with the shoulders, and the feet should be round, not flat or splayed out.

The puppies body should be firm, but not fat. Their tummy should be rounded but not distend, a pot belly could mean the puppy has worms.

The rump should be broad and strong looking. The back legs should be parallel all the way down from the hips to the feet.

The tail should be long and thicker at the root than the tip. The puppies bottom should be clean and dry with no signs of diarrhoea.

Once you have seen the whole litter and are confident they look physically healthy and like 'typical' Newfoundlands, it is time to think about the temperament.

The puppy should be active, inquisitive and alert. When meeting new people it should not cower, but come forward and investigate and greet them.

Watch how each puppy behaves with the rest of the litter- bossy puppies may become more dominant when fully grown. Whilst the puppy all the others pick on can grow into a nervous adult.

The best pets are the ones that fall somewhere in between.

The dogs that are easiest to train are those that have a natural curiosity and affinity with humans. Dogs that like and listen to people respond more readily to training.

## Is your home puppy ready???

By now you should have learned as much as you can about the physical care of a puppy, its socialisation, training and diet from your puppies breeder, books, other owners, your vet, local dog trainer and breed clubs.

You should have toys, bedding, bowls and a supply of food that your puppy is currently being fed on. Remember when growing rapidly, puppies will get

through an amazing amount of food and will put weight on at a rate of 1-2kg per week and be being fed around 4 times per day.

Newfoundland puppies should not be allowed to jump, climb stairs or steep slopes, stand for long periods on their hind legs, jump on and off the sofa or be taken for long walks. A sensible guideline is one minute of gentle walking for each week of age. For example a 20 week old puppy should have, at most, two ten minute walks on level ground each day.

Some flooring can be slippery, especially when wet. To prevent damage to soft bones and joint, these floors should be covered, temporarily, with the cheapest carpet you can find or non slip mats- until the puppy is at least 9 months old.

Any steps over 4 inches high (10cm) should be covered with a non slip ramp, preferably with sides- until the puppy is able to negotiate the drop with ease.

Baby gates are perfect on the stairs and any other 'out of bounds' area.

Keep outside doors latched and low windows closed to prevent escapes.

Puppies chew... it is a fact of life. Put electric cables, cleaning items, decorating material and anything of value well out of the way.

Good fencing is essential! You may need wire mesh to ground level on gates and beneath hedges.

Keep all gardening chemicals locked away!

Many common garden plants can be poisonous (see the book list).

Make sure you garden pond is covered (or behind a high fence- this is a Newfoundland puppy after all), ponds can be dangerous for young dogs.

A special car dog guard will reduce injuries to occupants in the event of a sudden stop. However, the adjustable types are not strong enough to stay in place when an adult Newfoundland leans on them, let alone hits



them with force - find one that can be bolted to the body of the car, or use a purpose built crate.

Your car should have air conditioning, in case you get stuck in traffic on a hot day.

# NEVER LEAVE ANY DOG IN A CAR ON A HOT OR SUNNY DAY



## Your lives together ...

With lots of work in the early days, weeks and months your Newfoundland will eventually be well behaved and eager to please. He will repay the time and effort you took at the beginning many times throughout the coming years. They will be a friend, companion, loved and admired by those they meet and you will be proud that he belongs to you.

Collecting your new puppy can be the beginning of a new life. A door is there for you to open into a world of opportunity for you and your dog. As well as the owners who get tremendous enjoyment and pride from showing or working their Newfoundland, you can find enthusiastic owners who explore every aspect of the Newfoundlands abilities.

Opportunities exist for:

- Water rescue training
- Showing
- Carting work
- Obedience
- Nosework
- PAT Dog & other charity work
- ... the list is long and always growing

There are Newfoundland working groups and activity groups as well as regular 'fun days'; for those whose dogs refuse to take life too seriously. Contact The Newfoundland Club to be put in touch with people and groups in your area.

There are also seminars held throughout the year where owners can learn about aspects of owning, showing, caring and promoting the health of the Newfoundland.

So go on, get out there with your new best friend and have fun!

## Useful Books ...

The Newfoundland- edited by Carol Cooper (£10 + p&p from The Newfoundland Club or free for new members to the club)

The Perfect Puppy - Gwen Bailey

Good Dog Behaviour - an owner's guide. - Gwen Bailey

Understanding Your Dog - John Rogerson

Why Does My Dog? - John Fisher

Your Dog and Your Baby - S. Hartmann-Kent

First Aid For Dogs - Dr. Bruce Fogle

Doglopaedia - J Evans & Kay White

Poisonous Plants and Fungi - Cooper & Johnson

The Good Behaviour Guide - David Appleby

# If you require further information ...

Please contact:

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