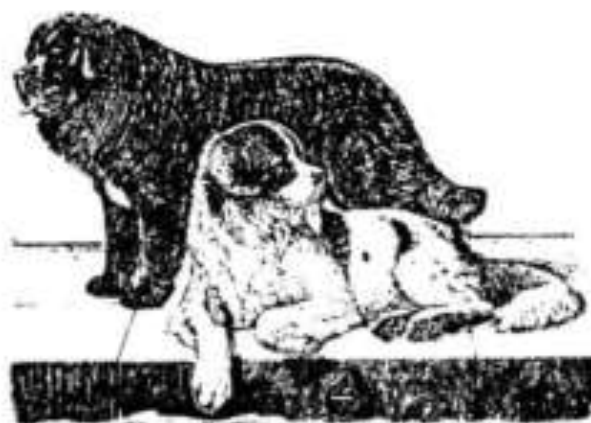


YOU AND YOUR NEWFOUNDLAND PUPPY



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THE NEWFOUNDLAND CLUB, OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE QUALITY OF PUPPY PURCHASED FROM THE BREEDER OF YOUR CHOICE

This booklet is intended to help the first-time owner of a Newfoundland puppy, and should be read in conjunction with the booklet 'SO YOU THINK YOU WANT A NEWFOUNDLAND', also published by The Newfoundland Club. It is not intended to be a comprehensive work on the subject and a list of further reading and a video is included at the end. Please try to have done some homework, **before** you collect the puppy from his breeder.

It is assumed that you have taken every possible care to choose a healthy, sound puppy, bred by a caring and reputable person, who has had it checked for general health and heart murmurs before sale. However, it is always wise to have the animal examined by your own vet, within 24 hours of bringing it home.

PREPARATIONS AND GENERAL SAFETY

You should already have –

✓ ***A cheap, lightweight collar and lead.***
Never use a slip collar or lead on a puppy.

✓ ***A bed.***

At this stage, a large, heavy-duty grocery carton, with one long side cut down to about a hands-width from the bottom and all the staples and sticky tape removed, plus an old blanket or piece of vet bed is all you need. Some puppies prefer a bare floor though!

The breeder may be able to let you have a piece of bedding, smelling nicely of 'home', which can help the puppy settle in its new quarters.

✓ ***Food.***

It is sensible to continue with whatever diet the puppy has had from his breeder. If for some reason you want to change this, do it **very** gradually to avoid tummy upsets. (Substitute increasing amounts of the new food for the old over a period of 5 – 7 days.)

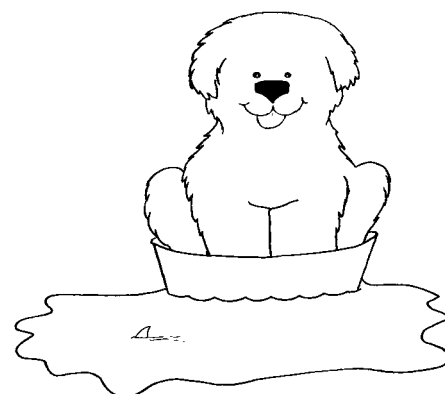
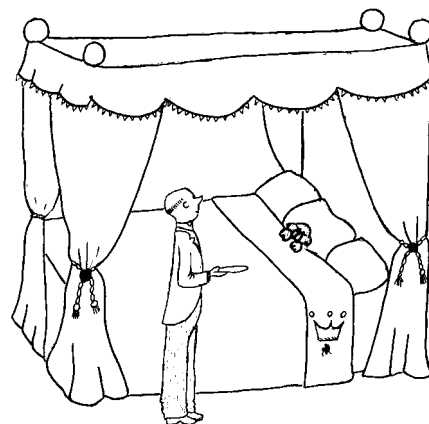
✓ ***Feeding dishes.***

Stainless steel is best.

✓ ***Water bowl.***

Newfoundland puppies like to play with water. To avoid recurrent flooding of your kitchen, use a relatively shallow water bowl.

Some owners find that placing a large, smooth stone in the



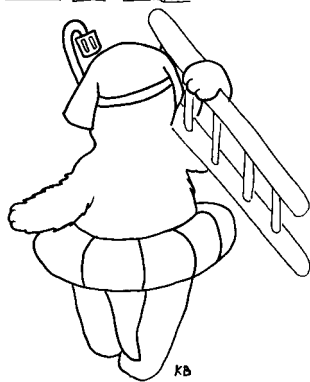
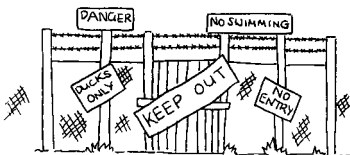
container, to prevent the puppy from tipping it over, is a good idea. To some puppies, this merely represents a challenge and yet more water is splashed around. Providing a 'splashing' water bowl outside may help.

✓ **Toys.**

Supply appropriate toys, which are safe even if played with to destruction. Many toys made for dogs are surprisingly unsuitable, containing squeaks or springs or fillings which are very dangerous. An empty plastic bottle (lemonade or similar), with the lid removed, often makes a good toy!

You should take the following precautions –

- ✓ **Steps**, both indoors and outside, are not good for large-breed puppies with their relatively massive body-weight and soft muscles and joints. *Fence them off or cover with some kind of ramp, until the dog is large enough to negotiate them with ease.*
- ✓ **Stairs** should be barred with a baby gate. In addition to potential bone and joint damage, many Newfoundlands will go upstairs and then panic about coming down. It is better to prevent them from going upstairs altogether.
- ✓ Some floors are very slippery, especially when wet. *These should be covered, for example with the cheapest carpet you can find, until the puppy is at least nine months old.*
- ✓ **Chewing** is a fact of puppy life. *Make sure electric cables, paints, cleaning materials etc. are out of reach. Also anything you value!*
- ✓ **Good fencing and gates** are essential. Even a young puppy will soon learn how to escape, unless your garden is secure. A fit adult will easily clear a normal garden gate. *So make your premises safe before a puppy arrives.*



- ✓ **Gardens** can be dangerous places. Newfoundland puppies like to chew plants and some may be poisonous, especially the seed-pods or roots, so *prevent access to them. Put all chemicals and sprays out of reach.*
- ✓ **Swimming pools** must be well fenced. Many dogs have drowned in pools because they could not climb out.
- ✓ **Fish ponds** are a temptation. It is NOT REASONABLE to expect a Newfoundland to understand that a garden pond is out of bounds. Water is his element. *Either fence round the pond or give the Koi Carp away and accept that the pond is part of the dog's domain.*

- ✓ **Keep the toilet lid closed.**

✓ Consider fitting child-proof catches to kitchen cupboards.

COLLECTING THE PUPPY

If possible, take someone else with you, so that one of you can comfort the puppy on the way home. Although it is tempting to cuddle him on your lap, he may well travel better in the foot-well, as he will be less conscious of movement and passing traffic. He may well be sick or urinate, however careful you are, so take a supply of old towels. If you have to collect the dog on your own, see if you can borrow a travelling cage. The animal will feel more secure and the journey will be safer for you.

If you already have an older dog, it can be a good idea to take it with you and make the first introductions on neutral ground (but well away from the mother and other resident dogs).

Make a great fuss of the senior dog, to the extent of ignoring the puppy. Allow him to show the way to your car and do your best to convince him that he's inviting the newcomer to return home with him.

If you prefer not to take the older dog, still *ensure that the first meeting takes place away from his own territory.*

It is not unusual for the older dog to appear 'frightened' of the new puppy and run away from him. Over time they will become more accepting of the newcomer

On your journey home from the breeder, make allowance for some stops to give the puppy a break from engine noise and movement. Avoid walking him on areas that may have been contaminated by other dogs.

If the journey is a long one, the baby should be offered small quantities of plain water and food. Don't worry if he refuses to eat or drink. Just repeat the offer, the next time you stop. He shouldn't be encouraged to take too much as he will almost certainly be sick.

When you reach home, resist the temptation to rush the puppy into the house to meet the rest of the family. Instead, take him quietly into the garden, to relieve himself and get his bearings a little. When he has spent a penny, praise him and make a note of the spot he used. When you want him to perform again later, take him back to the same place. With luck, he will recognise the smell and be inspired to repeat the performance.

Allow the puppy to explore his new home (or as much of it as you want him to know about, before his house-training is complete). Try to persuade any children in the family not to crowd round him and, instead, let him approach them.



NEVER LET THEM PICK HIM UP

Only after the dog appears to have settled a bit, think about offering him food and drink.

A small meal is all that is required at this stage. He will still be too excited to eat and digest a proper meal, and will be sick if he gobbles down a lot of food all at once. Take him straight outside afterwards, to his 'place' and stay with him until he relieves himself, praising him as he does so.

In an ideal world, the baby should now be exhausted and ready for a nap. Introduce him to his bed and see what happens. If he is too wound up to sleep, just keep an eye on him and, as soon as he flops, pick him up gently and put him in his bed again. You may have to repeat the process a few times but, sooner or later, he will have to give in to tiredness and, once he has woken up in his bed a few times, he will be well on the way to accepting it.

The bed should be placed in a sheltered corner, where you intend it to be permanently. Starting the puppy in one place, because he's little and cuddly and you cannot bear to take your eyes off him and then moving him to somewhere more convenient for you (but, by then, is less attractive to him) will only confuse.

Puppies need a lot of sleep, not only at night but in the form of cat-naps during the day, and any children and visitors must respect this need.

At bedtime, try to choose a time when the puppy is beginning to look sleepy, even if it means staying up beyond your bedtime and playing with the baby, to tire him out. Then take him into the garden and STAY WITH HIM until he has relieved himself. Then put him to bed, together with whatever chews, toys and comforters you think he needs. Some people believe a loudly ticking clock, or the radio set to a low volume, can help to settle a puppy.

Stay and keep him company, until he falls asleep and then creep away and hope for a (miraculously) peaceful night. If the puppy cries, the next move is up to you. You can adopt the old-fashioned policy of sticking your fingers in your ears and letting him get on with it. The modern approach is to try to understand what is going on in that confused baby's head and help him by being prepared to comfort and reassure. If that means frequent visits or even sleeping with him in the kitchen for a few nights, it is a small sacrifice to make in a lifetime together.

If you already have an older dog, this settling-in period will be much easier, but, if you have the slightest doubts about how well the senior has accepted the puppy, do not leave them alone together overnight. At least confine one of them in such a way that, though they can see each other and even lie close together, the adult cannot harm the puppy.

If, when you come downstairs in the morning, you find chaos in the sleeping area, *do not scold or punish*. The puppy will have absolutely no idea why you are cross. The person you need to be angry with is yourself, for having left access to your possessions.

The most important things in a puppy's life at this stage are *gentle, loving firmness and a consistent routine*. Some settle down very quickly, others take longer. Be patient. The little newcomer to your home has suddenly left his mother and siblings and been brought forcibly into a totally strange environment. He needs all the love and reassurance you can give.

SOCIALISATION

In order for a puppy to grow into a friendly, outgoing, sociable adult, he must be introduced to as many new and enjoyable experiences as possible at as young an age as possible. This is called socialisation. Puppies that are not sufficiently socialised will grow up to be shy, fearful and possibly even aggressive. Socialisation should have started while the puppy was with his mother and you *must* continue the process, as the period from 8 – 12 weeks of age is the time when puppies are most receptive to learning from, and coping with, new environmental experiences.

Until the pup has completed his immunisations, he cannot be taken into public places. However, you can make sure he encounters various noises and objects in your home, and visits from humans of all shapes and sizes will teach him that humans are nice to meet.

If he lowers his tail and ears and crouches, or tries to pull you away from something, the puppy is frightened. Don't force him into close encounters with things that obviously worry him, but move away and let him stay at what he thinks is a safe distance, until he plucks up courage to approach more closely.

If your puppy becomes apprehensive about anything, do not be sympathetic as this will make the puppy think *it is* something to be afraid of. Instead, show you are not worried and be cheerful, while at the same time making the situation less threatening. Feeding titbits and playing games may help your puppy to accept a new situation more quickly.

As soon as practical, take the puppy out and about and introduce him to as many new sights and sounds as possible. If he seems overwhelmed by everything, let him sit in the car and just watch from the safety of his 'home extension' for a while, before approaching more closely.

If you have a well-adjusted older dog, it will probably give all the confidence the puppy needs, but if your older dog is fearful of something, do not involve him in that part of the puppy's socialisation.

Let him meet other dogs, but first establish with the other owners that theirs are friendly.

Small children can be daunting. If you have none of your own, try to ensure that the puppy can meet someone else's. Puppies and children normally get on well together but each has to learn consideration for the other, or there will be 'tears before bedtime'. In spite of the Newfoundland's reputation of being good with children, adult dogs which have not had experience of small children can be quite scared of them. So make sure that your puppy's education includes some games with the younger generation.

Puppy socialisation classes are a good way for your puppy to learn how to interact with other dogs in a safe and controlled way.

They should not be a free-for all, but provide a situation where you can continue to establish your relationship with your youngster even when he is distracted by others of his own species.

If the puppy is badly frightened by something, *you must take steps to rectify the situation as quickly as possible*. Arrange the same situation again, but ensure that this time the puppy finds it a pleasurable experience, repeating it several times until fear of the negative experience is overcome.

Spend as much time as possible with your puppy. Newfoundlands thrive on being part of their human family. They need constant interaction, if their characters are to develop fully. Like any other dog, they can be destructive if they are left on their own and become bored. They are not a dog to be shut away in the garden or a kennel, until the humans want to play.



START AS YOU MEAN TO GO ON

There are some excellent books available on puppy rearing and reward-based training – see the book list.

Teach him that your *approval* is gained by doing what you want, **NOT** that your *disapproval* is gained by either not doing what you want, or doing what you don't want.

A dog sees its owners and family as its 'pack'. Every individual has a rank within the pack hierarchy with the strongest, most intelligent member being 'pack leader.' Many problems with training and general behaviour are as a result of the dog either being confused about his position in the 'pack hierarchy' or believing himself to be higher in rank than one or more members of his human 'pack' – some dogs are even 'pack leader'. The best way to avoid this is to establish with the newcomer that he is the least important individual in the home *and* outside it. Start on day one.

The puppy must view all humans in the house as superior to him in all the aspects of life that a **dog** considers important. Some pointers are given below.

The highest ranking 'pack' member will -

- i. Have the best place to sleep.
- ii. Have the best food and eat before everyone else.
- iii. Control access to some areas of the 'den'.
- iv. Choose a high vantage point to keep an eye on the pack and survey the territory.
- v. Choose what the pack does and when.
- vi. Demand attention from others but ignore subordinates when they do the same.

Therefore, it follows that while learning his place in the 'pack' hierarchy, the puppy should not –

- i. Be allowed to sleep on your bed or other furniture.
- ii. Eat before the rest of the family, or be given food from their plates.

- iii. Be allowed free access to the entire house – keep him out of your bedroom for example. Do not let him barge through doors ahead of you or lie across doorways you want to pass through – make him move out of your way.
- iv. Be allowed to position himself with his head higher than yours.
- v. Initiate play sessions, hoard all the toys, choose which toys are played with or take control of the toy at the end of a game.
- vi. Pester for attention or be allowed to resist being groomed.

Do not allow the puppy to do anything which is going to be unacceptable in a dog weighing 80lb/30Kg upwards.

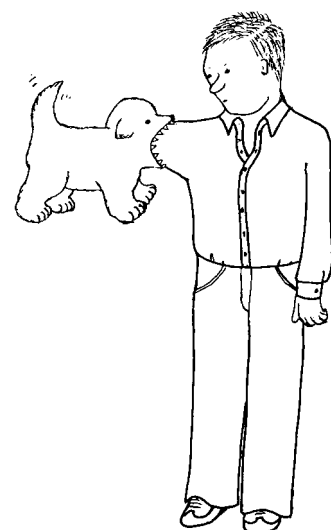
The desire to cuddle a little, black teddy-bear on your lap is almost irresistible. But do you want to struggle with a large, young adult, who cannot understand why you no longer want to share the furniture with him? Get down to his level and cuddle him on the floor and allow him to learn that his place is by your feet or on his own rug.

The puppy's toys should not resemble household articles or clothing. Giving the traditional worn out slipper to a puppy to chew will merely teach him that your new 'Gucci's' are also fair game.

The toys should be divided into two groups. One set is his, and he should be allowed access to them at all times, but do not play with them yourself. The other set belongs to you and other members of the household – these toys should be put away and only brought out for your play sessions with the dog; at the end of the games, they must be put away again, out of the puppy's reach. This simple step will reinforce your position as a superior individual – if you let the puppy keep a toy at the end of a game, in his eyes he will have won and so will see himself as stronger/more clever than you.

Do not allow the puppy to 'play-growl' over toys. If this happens, remove the toy and yourself promptly and isolate him for a minute or so. Teach him to 'give' an object on command.

Newfoundland puppies often like to 'mouth' their owner's hands or clothing. It is a harmless seeming trick, which can frighten non-doggy visitors and lead to misunderstandings. *It should be discouraged* - a simple disengagement from your hand or clothing and a firm 'NO', coupled with the immediate offer of a favourite toy, are all that is needed.



Consider the advantages of a large playpen, for those moments when you are just too busy to keep an eye on the puppy. He will be safer confined, with his toys and within sight of you, than chewing electric flex or getting underfoot and having things dropped on him. *But* only use a pen when it is strictly necessary and not every time it happens to suit you.

Do not allow the puppy to become possessive over food. This is of the utmost importance, especially if there are young children in the house. When he has had chance

to settle for a day or so, begin to accustom him to having his food controlled by each member of the household. The eventual aim is that while the dog is eating, food can be removed from or added to the bowl, the bowl can be taken away, or the dog can be petted. Neither should you allow him to 'hassle' you when you are preparing his meal – if he does, immediately put the bowl out of his reach and walk away; return and resume preparations after a few minutes. If all this seems too much bother, consider what might happen if someone tripped and knocked over the bowl while a food-possessive dog was eating.

Do not allow the puppy to jump up - not only is this very bad for his developing limbs but it can be dangerous as he grows larger. Various strategies can be used to teach the dog not to do this. Try folding your arms, turning your back and ignoring him while he has less than four paws on the ground. As soon as he gets off, praise him.

Most adult dogs will welcome a puppy into their lives, provided some tact and common sense is used.

- *Always* make a fuss of the resident dog first, however demanding the younger may be.
- If the adult threatens the puppy, be very careful before interfering. He is probably only growling enough to warn the youngster who is boss and, once the ground rules have been established, all should be well. This is the natural order of things. By scolding the older dog, you risk creating jealousy. You also risk making life intolerable for the older dog, particularly if he is a smaller breed, as the puppy may treat him like a raggy-doll, knowing his antisocial behaviour is reinforced by you. So let them sort themselves out, as far as possible.
- An old trick, to help things along, is to smear something tasty, which the older dog regards as a treat, like honey, or jam, onto the puppy's back. In the process of licking it off, the older dog will be putting his own scent onto the baby, which may make it more acceptable.
- As time goes on, watch that the puppy isn't teasing the older dog excessively. It may be necessary to separate them for periods, to give the senior dog a rest.
- It is natural for a puppy to bond more strongly to another dog than with you, as you belong to a different species. Therefore, you should restrict the amount of time the youngster spends alone with his canine companion to about a third of the amount of 'quality' time he spends with his human family.

HOUSE TRAINING

The secret is *eternal vigilance*. Always *take* (not put) the puppy outside, to the place where you want him to perform, after meals and after sleeping. *Praise him quietly* when he does what you want. Learn how to spot the signs that the puppy is about to 'go', so that you have chance to get him to the right spot.

A young puppy has no conscious control over his bladder and bowels. If he needs to go, he goes. The action is triggered either by a full bladder or bowel, pressure in his tummy

or the smell of urine or faeces. The ability to 'hold on' will come later. He certainly has no chance of lasting through the night and you will find puddles and worse on the floor in the morning. *Never* punish him for this, however irritated you may feel, he will not understand. Yes, he will look guilty if you reproach him, but his response will be to your tone of voice, not to any recollection of a mess he made hours earlier. If you catch him in the act, a scolding is appropriate, together with swift removal to where he should empty himself.

Rubbing the dog's nose in a mess is a disgusting method of 'house-training' and a total waste of time.

At bedtime, or whenever the puppy has to be left on his own, put a thick layer of newspaper over the floor. It will not be long before he associates the paper with relieving himself and you can gradually reduce the spread of paper to an area close to the outside door and thence to the garden itself.

Accidents will still occur and, if the puppy messes on the floor itself, clean it up immediately and thoroughly, finishing with a *safe* deodorising cleaner, as any lingering smell will act as an attractant to the same place again.

(Some ordinary 'disinfectants' leave behind a smell that will attract the puppy to use the same place again.)

Putting a small piece of urine-soaked paper where you prefer the dog to perform may act as an inspiration.

Most Newfoundlands are very easy to house-train. They do not need to be yelled at or bullied. If accidents occur, be honest enough to admit that the fault was probably yours.

BASIC OBEDIENCE TRAINING

It is never too early to start some simple 'manners' lessons and every member of the family should be involved with training the puppy. By ensuring that human members of the 'pack' are in all ways superior to the puppy (in other words, that the puppy is subordinate), you will automatically establish the right of all of the puppy's humans to tell him what to do. A subordinate puppy will be more obedient than one who considers himself to be of higher rank and therefore not obliged to do as he is told.

Always use the same command and praise-words. An adult dog has only a limited capacity for remembering words and a puppy needs to have everything kept simple and consistent. Reward an action within two seconds, or the puppy will not realise that he has performed correctly.

Never make the lessons too long or complicated. Five minutes at a time is sufficient. One of the most important lessons the puppy must learn is to come when called, *wherever you are and whatever he is doing*. ***NEVER*** punish your dog when it comes back to you, *no matter what* it has done while away – he will associate the punishment with returning to you and will be reluctant to obey the recall command in future.

If the puppy baulks at a lesson, go back a couple of stages, complete a simple exercise correctly and call it a day. It is always a good thing to end on a successful note. If you

feel your patience wearing thin, stop right away, before your frustration begins to be felt by the animal.

Praise and reward every success and never lose your temper. Ignore any mistakes.

THE LEAD

Newfoundlands are normally easy to rear and train, but they are natural draught animals and will quite happily tow their owners along.

Many of them will also take the end of the lead in their mouths, as they walk beside you. Although this can seem a pretty and harmless trick, it means that the dog thinks it is taking you for a walk and is therefore in control of the situation, so discourage it from the outset.



Unfortunately, you will not be able to take the puppy outside your own premises until his immunisations are complete (at about 16 weeks) but you need to start lead training sooner than that. Much can be achieved around the house and garden.

Start by fitting a lightweight collar. The pup will fuss at first, but he will soon forget about it. The collar should be a fitted one, with a buckle adjustment, and you should be able to slip two fingers underneath it when in place. A slip collar is not suitable as if it is left on and accidentally gets caught, the dog could be throttled. At the beginning, leave the collar on all day, only removing it at bedtime or if the dog is to be left unsupervised.

- Once you have taught the puppy to come to you, the next step is to encourage him to walk alongside you.
- When he's walking with you, clip on the lead and leave it trailing on the ground. Before long, the dog will forget it is there and that is the moment to pick it up and walk with him.
- It's then a short step to persuade him to walk where you want.
- This is when he may decide it is fun to tow you along and you must teach him it's a bad idea.
- As soon as there is tension on the lead, stop dead in your tracks, draw the puppy gently back to your side and then resume the walk. The youngster will soon learn that if he wants to get anywhere, he must stay at your side.

Once the immunisations are completed, you and your puppy may venture out and join a training class. This is essential if the dog is to learn how to socialise with other dogs and also with strange humans, as well as dealing with unfamiliar sights and sounds. The Kennel Club, the Association of Pet Dog Trainers, your local library or your vet should be able to tell you of classes in your area.

Most training classes like you to go along for the first session without your dog, so they

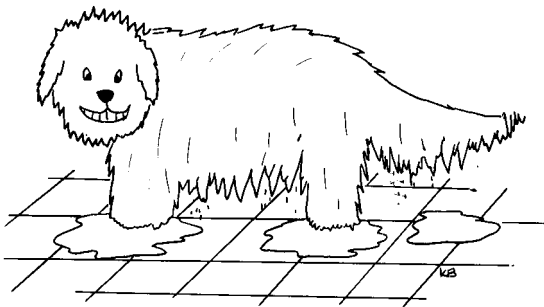
can explain their methods and also what equipment you might need. Take the time to sit and watch what is going on. Classes vary, and you need to choose a course suitable for a puppy rather than one designed for adult delinquents. Newfoundlands respond well to a gentle, reward-based system and it is unwise to take one to classes where the dogs are *forced* to comply with commands.

It is worth contacting the Newfoundland Club Liaison Officer, as there may be a Newfoundland training group in your area.

IT IS NEVER NECESSARY TO HIT YOUR PUPPY.

DIRT

This issue cannot be ducked. Newfoundlands, with the best will in the world, are naturally messy dogs. They like to walk in the rain, to paddle and swim and splash through mud. When they have done these things, they like to have a good shake – preferably close to their favourite people.



Always keep a supply of old towels in strategic places, so that the worse can be dried off, before allowing the dog into the house or car.

A muddy dog quickly turns into a dusty one, once he is dry. So he needs to be brushed as well.

Old newspapers or candlewick bedspreads make good drying materials.

GROOMING

Whether a young puppy's coat *needs* to be groomed is irrelevant, the object of the exercise at this age is to teach the dog to *accept being groomed*. Make grooming enjoyable but never let it develop into a game or – more importantly – a trial of strength. Grooming is one component of establishing the family 'hierarchy' with you at the top and the puppy at the bottom, so it follows that all members of the household should participate, (brushing behind the ears and between the back legs, in particular, reinforces the puppy's position as subordinate to you).

A small, 'slicker' brush is all that you need for a puppy.

Later, when the adult coat starts to grow through, more substantial tools will be needed. The breeder of your dog should advise you about this and also show you the basic technique needed to keep the dog's coat in good condition. This is not a job to be skimped or left for a more convenient time. A neglected coat swiftly becomes a matted and unhealthy one. If you cannot be bothered with such a commitment, why buy such a dog in the first place?

If you have lost touch with the breeder of you puppy, contact the Newfoundland

Club's Liaison Officer (see back page), who can almost certainly put you in touch with a club member in your locality, who can show you the ropes. Most good pet shops can advise, but there is no substitute for a demonstration on a live animal.

If you have any kind of back problem, consider making a raised grooming table. This can be any kind of stable platform, with a ramp at either end, so the dog can get up and down securely. Cover with a non-slip surface. Old carpet or rubber car mats will do.

NEVER, EVER leave the dog unsupervised on the table or allow him to jump off.

Start by brushing gently 2 or 3 times every day. Train the youngster to lie quietly on one side and then the other, while you brush his tummy and the inner part of his legs. These are ticklish bits and you will need to be very gentle.

He will want to nip the brush and play the fool. Teach him firmly and gently that *this is not allowed*. Sometimes it can help if he has a favourite toy or chew to distract him.

Keep the grooming sessions brief. Puppies have a very short attention span and quickly become bored. Gradually build up so that you give the puppy a thorough brush once a day or alternate days.

When the adult coat comes in and the puppy has learned to enjoy being groomed, you can reduce to once a week. Remember, the best way to ensure healthy skin and coat is to remove dead hair, dust and dirt by thorough, regular grooming.

In all dogs, especially those that have hairy, folded down ears, ear hygiene is very important.

- Get an experienced Newfoundland owner to show you how to trim the excess hair from around and under the ear – this is not a 'cosmetic' exercise, but necessary to allow a good flow of air around the ear.
- Keep the area around the ears well brushed, as it mats easily.
- Get your vet to show you how to gently clean the excess wax from under the ear flap and around the *outside* of the ear canal.
- The ears should not smell unpleasant and the dog should not keep scratching them or shaking his head. If these signs persist for more than a day or so, take him to the vet.

Established ear infections can be extremely difficult and expensive to treat – it is far better to take a little trouble and prevent them occurring in the first place.

You should also teach the dog to let you open, examine and reach inside his mouth, check inside his ears and scrutinise his feet. You will find this very useful when you have to visit the vet.

Consider dental hygiene and get your vet to show you how to brush your dog's teeth.

DIET

To begin with, follow the breeder's advice. If the dog seems to be growing well and eating happily, there is no reason to make any changes. If you decide that you need to alter the diet, **make any changes** over a period of 5 – 7 days to avoid tummy upsets.

A Newfoundland puppy should increase in weight by approximately 3 – 4 pounds (1.5 – 2 Kg) per week until it is six months old. **Don't allow** the dog to become overweight, it will damage his growing limbs and joints. You should *just* be able to feel all the ribs, by pressing gently, as you run your hands along the dog's ribcage.

Feed the best possible food you can afford. Truly, you get what you pay for.

Milk is not necessary for puppies over 8 weeks.

COMPLETE DIET OR MEAT AND MIXER?

These days, many dogs are successfully reared on complete diets. The choice between one of these and the more old-fashioned meat-and-mixer approach is yours.

- A good quality complete diet will contain a totally balanced ration and needs *no supplementation*. However, some contain up to five times too much Vitamin D, which can have a bad effect on developing joints. The daily vitamin D intake should not exceed 9iu per pound of dog (20iu per Kg of dog) per day. Ask a really knowledgeable pet food supplier for advice, or write to the manufacturer.
- There are many different makers of complete dog foods, including overseas manufacturers. The latter may not always be as well regulated as the British ones.
- **Tinned meats** can contain a large amount of water. A growing puppy does not have the capacity to eat sufficient to give him enough nourishment. This is bad both for his digestion and your wallet. The same applies to some of the big 'sausages' of ground meat which are available. Try weighing the contents of the tin or pack and then warming it up and straining off the melted juices, before re-weighing the remaining solids. This will give you an idea of how much real value is included.
- **Butcher's pet mince** can contain a mixture of meats, some of which will not be suitable for a puppy. It may also contain a high proportion of fat, as well as dangerous bone splinters.
- **Some cheap** biscuits and complete meals contain cereal 'fillers' which can cause digestive and skin problems.
- Avoid rations containing a high proportion of flaked maize, which is not suitable for dogs.

If you decide to feed a complete diet –

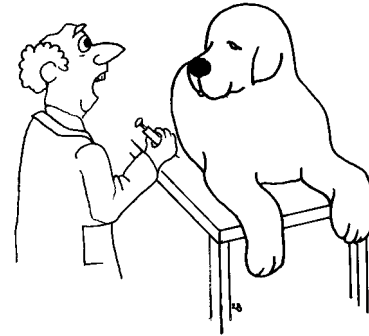
Start your puppy on a formulation specifically designed for puppies. Ideally you should be continuing to feed the diet your breeder recommended. Follow the guide on the packet to decide how much to give each day. Divide this daily ration into four equal amounts and feed breakfast, lunch, dinner and supper.

The manufacturer may recommend soaking the dry food in hot water and allowing it to cool, before it is fed to the puppy.

Because dried complete diets offer such a concentrated form of nutrition, it is very easy to over-feed. As the puppy grows, increase the ration very slowly and keep a close watch on his weight.

IMMUNISATIONS

These are essential. Consult your vet, before you bring your puppy home. Following completion of the course of injections and before taking him out beyond your own premises, it is possible to have a blood test taken to ensure that the puppy has full immunity- ask your vet for advice.

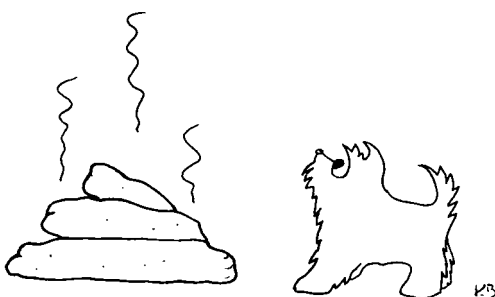


WORMS AND FLEAS

Many puppies have round worms when they are young. These look like earth worms but are white and can measure up to 5 inches long. Wormy pups look pot-bellied and can have hiccoughs. It is important to worm them as (very rarely) humans can pick up infection, which may cause blindness.

Puppies can have quite a severe infection of **round worms** and show no outward signs, as they are only passed when the worms die.

Tapeworms are seen as small, white segments passed in the dog's faeces or perhaps attached to the fur around the anus. They are mobile when first passed. When dry, they look like rice grains. The most common one in the dog comes from infected fleas, which have a tiny cyst in them. When eaten by the dog, this cyst grows into a segmented worm, measuring up to 18". It is unusual to find tapeworms in young pups. However, should you see the segments the pup should be wormed by your vet, who will know the correct medicine and dosage.



Dog faeces should always be picked up and disposed of. This can easily be done, when on a walk, by putting one's hand into a plastic bag, seizing the faeces and inverting the bag.

If you don't do this, people will know that you are the antisocial owner who didn't clean up after their dog, because of the size of the 'pile'.

Any flea problem should also be tackled.

Fleas, ticks and lice can be picked up easily. These days, various sprays are available. Buy from your vet and follow the instructions faithfully.

We Strongly Recommend you only use flea treatment and wormers prescribed by your vet and not purchased over the counter at a pet shop or supermarket.
Do not buy any sprays containing OP's (Organophosphorus compounds).

INSURANCE

Most puppies are insured by their breeder for at least six weeks from the date of purchase. This gives you time to investigate different firms' policies, to find the best for your needs.

It is essential to have the third-party risk of owning a dog insured - Newfoundlands are big animals and can be clumsy, sending both young and old flying without meaning any harm. This may be covered by your existing household policy, but do check to make sure.

Most specialist dog insurance policies cover vets' fees, which can be very high. Read the policy carefully and make sure you understand about possible exclusions.

The cost of replacing the dog can also be insured.

THE CAR

Most Newfoundlands love car journeys. However, it is sensible to start with short trips, gradually increasing the length. Try to ensure that car journeys are things to be looked forward to, leading to walks or visits to friends.

If the puppy starts to pant and dribble, it probably feels sick. If you can do so safely and legally, pull over and give it a break. Make sure the dog has plenty of air, but don't open the windows so wide that it can put its head out.

A travelling cage minimises the inconvenience of travel-sickness and may even give the dog a sense of security.

An anti-static device, fitted to the car, may help.

If car-sickness continues into adolescence, it may be necessary to seek veterinary advice.

If it is not convenient to use a travelling cage, please fit a dog-guard in your car. This should be a well-made and correctly fitted one. Its purpose is to confine the dog in the event of an accident. A large dog, catapulting from the back of your car into the seating area, should you have to stop suddenly, can be very dangerous for both humans and dogs.

ON WARM DAYS, ENSURE THAT THERE IS PLENTY OF VENTILATION.

REMEMBER THAT YOU MAY REMAIN RELATIVELY COOL, AT THE FRONT OF THE CAR BUT THE DOG MAY BE LYING IN FULL SUN AT THE BACK AND BE UNABLE TO MOVE INTO ANY SHADE.

VEHICLE AIR-CONDITIONING IS NOT A LUXURY IF YOU HAVE A NEWFOUNDLAND

IF YOU CANNOT AVOID LEAVING YOUR DOG IN A PARKED CAR –

- ❖ **LEAVE HIM FOR AS SHORT A TIME AS POSSIBLE – TEN MINUTES IN A HOT CAR CAN KILL.**
- ❖ **PROVIDE A BOWL OF WATER.**
- ❖ **ARRANGE THROUGH VENTILATION – OPEN WINDOWS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CAR AT LEAST FOUR INCHES (ONE WINDOW OPEN A COUPLE OF INCHES IS NOT ENOUGH).**
- ❖ **PUT THE VEHICLE IN THE SHADE.**
- ❖ **REMEMBER THAT THE SUN MOVES, AND A SHADY SPOT CAN BECOME A SUNNY ONE IN A VERY SHORT TIME. A PARKED CAR CAN BECOME AN OVEN AND YOUR DOG WILL DIE.**

If, *at any time*, your dog becomes dangerously overheated it is vital to reduce his temperature as quickly as possible.

Symptoms of heat-stroke are - Difficulty in breathing
 Extreme anxiety
 Frantic attempts to escape if in a car
 Excessive panting
 Purplish tongue
 Collapse.

- The best way to reduce the temperature is to immerse the dog in cool water, if this is not possible, hose or pour water over the belly area (where the coat is thinnest). Pouring water over the back is largely a waste of effort, as the waterproof coat prevents the water reaching the skin and cooling it.
- The dog should be taken to the vet immediately.

EXERCISE

The one thing you will want to do, probably more than anything else, is to take your beautiful new puppy out for walks. He will want to come with you. However, a baby Newfoundland has very soft joints and ligaments, plus a heavy body, which his limbs have to support. Stressing him with too much exercise, when he is still young, will lead to all sorts of painful problems later in life.

It is nonsense to say that the dog will know instinctively how to balance his exercise ration for himself. He does not, and his willingness to please you means that he will follow you to the point of exhaustion.

Allow a very gentle build-up of formal exercise, on the lead, on level ground. At 8 – 10 weeks of age, five minutes walk twice a day is sufficient. Increase this by one minute for each week of age. Thus a 20-week old puppy should have two ten-minute walks a day. **Free exercise**, around your garden is the only other exercise the puppy needs.

After about nine months, you can start to build up to longer walks, but do not let the dog become too tired and try not to let him become involved on over-energetic games with

older dogs.

NEVER exercise a Newfoundland if the weather is very warm, particularly if it is very sunny. Go for your walks in the cool of the evening or early morning.

Swimming is ideal exercise for a Newfoundland but do not assume they can all swim. Most do. Some don't. Like any child, a Newfoundland puppy, once it has discovered the joy of being in the water, may be reluctant to come out and become chilled and overtired. Don't allow this.

The Newfoundland Club has a number of working groups who will be happy to advise on water training. Please see the back of this booklet for further details.

BE A RESPONSIBLE OWNER

You have certain legal obligations and responsibilities and should be aware of them.

Always pick up your dog's mess. It is disgusting to leave this for others to tread in and just plays into the hands of the 'anti-dog' lobby.

A well-behaved dog will give you much pleasure and earn the admiration of those whom you meet. A 120lb hooligan is a menace to you, your family and everyone around you.

If all this seems a frightening list of do's and don't's, take heart. Newfoundlands are normally the easiest of creatures to rear and train. A little effort in the early stages will ensure that your beautiful puppy will grow into an even more lovely adult and be the most rewarding companion for years to come.



Keep in touch with your puppy's breeder. Any reputable breeder will want to know how their puppies progress and will want to help with any teething troubles.

The Newfoundland Club is always willing to try and help with advice and welcomes responsible owners. The club runs a variety of activities for Newfoundlands and their families and there is a thriving working section. It is usually possible to put new owners in touch with more experienced people in their area.

LOVE YOUR PUPPY.
HE WILL GIVE YOU ALL HIS LOVE
– UNCONDITIONALLY –
IN RETURN

WHERE TO FIND OUT MORE :

BOOKS

The Newfoundland – Edited by Carol Cooper : ISBN 0-9505674-2-6
(£16.90 inc. P&P from Breed Liaison – see below)

The Perfect Puppy – Gwen Bailey: ISBN 0-600-58581-6

Good Dog Behaviour – an owner's guide – Gwen Bailey: ISBN 0 00 413321 8

Understanding Your Dog – John Rogerson: ISBN 0-09-174579-9

Why Does My Dog? – John Fisher: ISBN 0-285-63058-x

Your Dog and Your Baby – S. Hartmann-Kent: ISBN 187348300-7

First Aid for Dogs – Dr. Bruce Fogle: ISBN 0-72072042-7

Poisonous Plants and Fungi – Cooper & Johnson: ISBN 0-11-242728-9

The Good Behaviour Guide – David Appleby (Available from Breed Liaison Officer)

VIDEO

Sirius Puppy Training – Ian Dunbar (James & Kenneth, Publishers)

ADDRESSES

If you require further information, please contact:

The Newfoundland Club –Honorary Secretary

Mrs L Ratter

Hill of Westerhouse Farm

Yieldshields Road

Carluke

Scotland

ML8 4QY

secretary@thenewfoundlandclub.co.uk

www.thenewfoundlandclub.co.uk

on Facebook The Newfoundland Club UK

The Association of Pet Dog Trainers

Peacocks Farm,

Northchapel,

Petworth,

West Sussex.

GU28 9JB

NOTES :