# **Latest News**

# Committee Corner

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## **Update**

Looking for ambassadors in Wyoming, Idaho, Nevada, Texas, Iowa, Nebraska, Alabama, South Carolina, Virginia, Mississippi, Delaware, and Alaska. If you know any NCA members meeting criteria to become a Newf Ambassador, please contact and invite them to send in an application.

**Newfoundland Ambassador Committee**

John Affel

Cathy Hartke

Raymond Gunn

Deb Rothwell

Sandee Lovett

Joan Locker-Thuring

Joan Fenwick - chair

Newf Ambassador

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|  | **4/1/2017** | Guest Editor – Cathy Hartke |

Happy Spring! We have experienced many episodes of turbulent weather – torrential rains, blizzards, and exceptionally mild weather through traditional winter climes. For instance, Chicago recorded no appreciable snow in January or February for the first time in over 146 years! I live in this area and believe me, my three Newfs are not happy about this unexpected turn of events.

As we all know the dreaded mud season is soon upon us in any event. As we talk to prospective or even new Newfoundland owners, we often talk about drool, hair, grooming, training, etc. One area that we may need to consider bringing up more often is the wear and tear on our houses. Many of us will just shrug and think so what? If the hair, drool, and size are not a barrier for some owners, the toll on their homes might be.

The toll of five Newfs over 15 years was readily apparent as we prepared our home for potential sale. Those really, really cute teething marks on the windows sills, the black “shadows” against the wall where a Newf must lean in order to slide into a prone position, the dirt ground into the tile grout, and oh yes, the scratch marks from “let me in” or out moments on the doors are not adding to the home’s value in most buyers’ minds. So we scrubbed, power washed, painted, planted and replaced where necessary. A year later, after deciding not to move - we’re almost back where we started!

Recently one person with a Newf puppy stated that she might need to reconsider having the dog in her newly remodeled home. When I heard this, I thought, wow just another discussion to have with new or potential owners! How many Newfs are stuck in mud rooms or utility rooms because not only are they untrained but the family just cannot keep up with the amount of housekeeping a Newf requires? As we extol the virtues of our beautiful breed, we must also be terribly frank about the very real downside. Then again, I’ve never had a Newf use crayons on the bedroom walls. ☺

Hopefully you will receive, your Newf Ambassador pins. The committee listened to you when some Ambassadors said it would be nice to have a way to distinguish us. I plan to wear mine at an NCA supported entry conformation show at the end of this month and at our regional club’s Specialty Show in June. I probably will attach it to my swim bag carryall for the summer as well. I know if I was journeying to the National, I would surely wear it proudly there. NCA’s board of directors supported us completely for the expense of getting the pins created. They allowed the Newf Ambassador committee to use the NCA logo. For some who may not be aware, the NCA logo is a brand and may not be used without express permission.

# **Thoughts on what a Newf owner needs**

I’ve been asked so many times “what do I need to have or know when my Newf puppy/adult/ rescue comes home” that I created a list. Feel free to add to it from your experiences but one family with their first Newf puppy recently told me it was invaluable. She had bought everything on the list but unfortunately didn’t know how to use it all. Well, that’s a different topic but we did schedule some time to go over trimming for neatness and safety especially keeping nails under control!

**Grooming**

Great resources available at: <http://www.ncanewfs.org/newfs.shtml#.V9wL7I-cGhc>

<http://cncnewfs.com/Grooming.shtml>

<http://www.ncanewfs.org/newfs/pages/puppygroom.html> - getting a puppy used to being groomed

<http://www.ncanewfs.org/newfs/pages/trimming.html> - Penny Shubert is a great show groomer, there are many videos of her grooming techniques on YouTube.

## **When I get home**

Another good resource is this URL written by Tracy Warncke.

http://www.ncanewfs.org/newfs/pages/Gettingready.html

Initially a slip collar or martingale/British lead will work for the first few months.  We never leave a collar on our dogs, too many horror stories of them getting hung up in crates or on furniture.  As they get older, we highly recommend a prong collar – for *training*.  They are often just too strong with too much hair for a choke collar or buckle type.  There is a proper way to use it and it should not be the only collar the dog has.  A lot of people don’t like prong collars often because they generally aren’t used correctly.  They do not “hurt” the dogs and in fact are better than choke collars that can crush their trachea.  This is especially useful as you’re teaching a puppy (even at 7 months mine was 85 lbs) to walk with you.   Remember you will NEVER be stronger than him so he must know to walk/heel on leash without pulling any of you.  It does take time though. Puppy obedience training is also a must. I generally keep local training clubs information on hand or make personal recommendations of trainers and classes.

*[Editor’s note: Not everyone agrees with the training collar approach, but whatever we give as examples should be designed to help the newbie control a rapidly growing or grown dog.]*

**Tools - Accessories**

* A crate – for house-training and house-saving
* Large nail clipper or Dremel
* Styptic powder (you **will** cut a quick at some point)
* Large comb – sometimes called greyhound combs
* Good pin brush
* Good coat rake
* Slicker brush
* Mars Coat King dematter (another expensive tool but very worth it, Mars Original Coat King Stripping Comb for Dogs, 20-Blade can be found on Amazon or Pet Edge)
* Scissors – thinning shears and straight shears (ideally curved but since those can be expensive, Sally’s Beauty Supply has cheap ones)
* Poop bags!

**Toys**

* Initially durable toys to withstand chewing – tug ropes, hide-a-treat, bumpers, a toy that hides a plastic bottle (they like the noise),
* Other soft ones with squeakers
* Do not ever let him play with any real object – gloves, scarves, shoes, etc. (unless you want them to see your belongings as toys)

Play with toys should be supervised and if any small pieces break off – throw the toy away. Removal of toys as an abdominal surgery is expensive and not always successful in time.

***Trying to Help***

**John H. Affel**

Not all the activities are fun where you get to describe to a Newfy “newbies” how great Newfs are. At dog shows I enjoy meeting folks who come to look at the Newfs and ask about what it is like to own one. I get to tell them about the history of the breed and feel like a true Newf ambassador as I extol all the wonderful virtues.

Yes, I do answer that they shed and drool.

Yes, they occasionally can be stubborn but a little training goes a long way.

Why yes, I say to have met Josh.

Yes, Newfs are not only black but there are 3 other accepted colors for showing colors.

This one is a white with black like the Nana dog in Peter Pan - I prattle on and on.

Unfortunately, as a Newf Ambassador, we deal with some unpleasant tasks. We had one recently that is still an unfinished story. We take e-mails mostly and a recent one I received was unsettling.

Through our New Pen Del regional club rescue efforts, we were trying to rehome a few dogs that were, upon further examination, too ill-tempered and poorly bred by the same breeder. A day after we discussed the number of recent rescue issues from the same breeder, I got an email that was a cry for help from someone experienced with dogs about her Newf puppy. The four-month-old was unmanageable and showing signs of a bad temperament. The breeder was the same one that we have received complaints about through rescue. The owner had an older Newf in the house who she had generously fostered and rescued years ago. She knew the breed and trusted that the breeder of her new pup was ethical. The breeder blamed the owner and claimed never to have had temperament problems. We knew better.

I brought in our rescue chairman and a Newf breeder/ trainer into the conversation in order to help determine whether it was a behavioral problem caused by genetics or issues that could be corrected. The breeder still refused to take the dog back and again blamed the owner.

With aid from my colleagues, we helped arrange a meeting at a neutral vet site for the owner and the breeder to meet. Waiting for the outcome as I type this note.

Want to hear more stories about our work? Submit your own tales to anyone on the Newf Ambassador Committee.

They do not have to be long or even be concluded – some may have ongoing updates like John’s. We need to hear from you – what’s working, what’s not, and any assistance you need and the resources you use.