

Niagara Frontier Newfoundland Club

Newfie News



Baby learns to swim in Alleghany State Park.

Baby is owned by Michele and Michael Morris.

Kids & Kites

NFNC will be participating in Kids & Kites again this year on Saturday, September 13, 2008 at Reservoir State Park from 11 AM to 2 PM. Rain Date: Sunday, September 14.



Newfs in the News

Am. Can. Ch. Mooncusser's After Midnight (Byron)

Attained his Canadian Championship on June 7, 2008 going Winners Dog, Best of Winners and Best of Breed for 3 pts at Erie Shores Kennel Club show in Caledonia, Ontario.

Byron is owned by Denise Koch and Dr. Richard & Flo Symington

Shadrack's Windswept Trade Wind (Trader)

5/01/08: National Specialty - 4th American Bred

6/15/08: Erie Kennel Club Winners Dog (WD); Best of Winners (BOW); Best of Opp. Sex (BOS); Earning his Championship (CH)

6/28/08: Chenango Valley KC - Best of Breed (BOB)

Trader is owned by Lonnie Specht. Bred by: Steve & Jean McAdams, Johanna Matsuda, and Greg Szynskie

Big Luv's Abigale Mist (Abby)

Attained her Canine Good Citizen Certificate on July 2, 2008.

Abby is owned by Jennifer Dominguez



Dog Eye Troubles

Dog eyes are subject to a variety of troubles, some serious, some not. Any eye condition that varies from the norm needs attention.

Entropion or ectropion can occur when the eyelid does not properly fit the eye. Entropion is the turning in of the eyelid that can cause corneal abrasions or irritate the conjunctiva, the mucous membrane that covers the eyeball. Ectropion is the turning out of the eyelid and can cause exposure problems. Both can be surgically corrected. Breeds that are susceptible to entropion include Chinese Shar Pei, Chow Chow, Newfoundland, St. Bernard, Basset Hound, Bernese Mountain Dog, Bloodhound, Bulldog, and Chesapeake Bay Retriever.

Eyelashes that grow in such a fashion as to irritate the eye can cause problems and may require surgery. Some dogs are prone to excessive tearing caused by tiny hairs near the inside of the eye that act like a wick for tears and cause staining of the face.

Cherry eye may occur if the third eyelid becomes more prominent as a result of dehydration, severe dental disease, atrophy of the head muscles, or disease that causes the eye to lose moisture. When this happens, the tear duct may enlarge and appear as a round, red mass. The condition can lead to irritation of the cornea or conjunctiva because it interferes with tear production. It can sometimes be dealt with by application of topical medication but surgery is often necessary.

Uveitis or inflammation of the eye can be caused by foreign bodies or by systemic disease. It can cause symptoms such as blinking, squinting, or reluctance to enter brightly-lighted areas and can produce a watery discharge. The appearance of the eye may change depending on where the inflammation is centered. Some eyes become dull or bluish; in some cases the white becomes red or swollen or the iris changes color.

Diagnosis of uveitis is done with special instruments that illuminate the interior of the eye. Unless the cause is obvious, blood tests and other lab work are necessary to determine the cause. Diseases that can cause uveitis include ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted fever, Lyme disease and brucellosis. Other causes may be a foreign body in the eye, a bacterial infection, an autoimmune disease, a scratch, a cataract, or cancer or parasitic disease.

Treatment is critical to relieve pain and to prevent scarring, glaucoma, or blindness. Aspirin, corticosteroids, or other anti-inflammatory drugs may be prescribed to minimize soreness. Oral or topical antibiotics are useful in bacterial infections. Dilating drops or ointments may be used to relax the muscles in the eye and thus help reduce pain. Corticosteroid drops are not used in cases of corneal ulceration because they could slow healing or actually worsen the ulcer. Although early treatment is often successful, some dogs have chronic uveitis and in some, the eye has to be removed.

Keratoconjunctivitis sicca or dry eye is caused by a breakdown in the tear film that protects the cornea. When this film breaks down, the cornea is deprived of the nourishment it needs to remain healthy and deterioration begins. Brown coloration, scar tissue, ulcers, and blood vessel growth can then develop and interfere with eyesight. A dog with dry eye is a dog whose eyes sting constantly. The lack of tears also contributes to the increase in mucous in the eye, resulting in a greenish discharge that adheres to the hairs near the eye. The discharge can be cleared up with medication, but if dry eye is the cause, it returns when the dosing ceases.



Health Center Cont.



A breakdown in the tear film and a loss of the aqueous layer causes dry eye. This loss results in dryness to areas of the corneal surface or in more advanced cases, drying to the entire corneal surface. When the cornea is deprived of oxygen and nutrients through the tear film, it rapidly undergoes destructive changes. These changes result in brown pigmentation, scar tissue growth, ulcer development, and blood vessel growth across the cornea leading to partial vision loss.

Dry eye can be triggered by hypothyroidism, tear gland infections, and the toxic effects of some drugs that are necessary to treat other conditions. In a few cases, chronic ear infections and nerve disorders can also cause dry eye to flare up. Treatment includes lubrication of the eye, reduction of bacteria and inflammation, and stimulation of natural tear production.

Glaucoma is the increase of pressure within the eye. It can destroy the retina and damage the optic nerve, thus causing blindness, if not treated. Glaucoma occurs when the eye's natural ability to maintain intraocular pressure by dispersing fluid is impaired. It can occur as a result of structural changes such as lens displacement in older dogs or from causes such as uveitis or injury. Some breeds of dogs are susceptible to glaucoma that does not arise from a secondary cause such as age-related changes, inflammation, or injury. These breeds include the Beagle, Norwegian Elkhound, American and English Cocker Spaniels, Basset Hound, Samoyed, and Chow Chow.

Cataracts are spots on the dog's eye lens that interfere with vision. The normal lens is clear; a cataract is a cloud on the lens that does not allow light to reach the retina. Cataracts can be slow-growing or may appear to get worse overnight. They first appear as small dots or blisters and may eventually grow to cover the entire lens. They act by preventing light from reaching the retina. If a cataract is suspected, the dog should be examined by a veterinary ophthalmologist to determine if the opacity is actually a cataract, how far it has progressed, and, because some cataracts do not cause significant impairment to vision, whether surgery will benefit the dog. Some dogs inherit cataracts. Others may develop them as a result of uveitis, eye injury, or diabetes, or as part of the aging process.

Blindness can be caused by any of a number of inherited or acquired eye diseases. Gradual vision loss may not be apparent to the owner of a dog that stays at home until the furniture is moved, a new fence is installed, or the family moves to new digs. If the environment changes and the dog starts bumping into things, if he can't find a

Corneal dystrophy is the presence of opaque bodies in or near the middle of the cornea. Some corneal dystrophies are superficial; others infect the deepest layer of the structure and can cause blindness.

There are many other eye diseases that can affect dogs. If any eye problem is suspected, a trip to the veterinary clinic is in order. Although a dog can function adequately if he loses his eyesight, every step possible should be taken to assure that that loss does not occur.

Norma Bennett Woolf

**Please consult with a veterinarian on any and all medical/health information.
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LIFE AMONG THE GIANTS

LIVING WITH NEWFOUNDLAND DOGS

By William Ball



New author and owner of Newfoundland Dogs for the past 15 years, William Ball, of Lancaster, Ontario has released his first book depicting his and his wife's **Life Among the Giants**. These large, black, hairy dogs, which produce very impressive ropes of slime often at the most inopportune times, present a challenge when one has one of them as a house dog. But owning four? The mischief they cause and predicaments in which they find themselves are multiplied by four and the simple act of "living" with this many 160 pound dogs presents many interesting "happenings" in everyday life.

The book is about this man, his wife, and 600 pounds of dog, all living in the same small house in the country. Experience their way of life through the eyes of the author. It highlights the comical, sad and loving aspects of sharing and devoting one's days with these lovable gentle giants called the Newfoundland Dog.

Readers will learn a little about the history of the dog, and a lot about their personality and character and how they fit so well into family life. The author also introduces the reader to the world of the Newfoundland as a therapy dog, and how they help others in need by providing their valued companionship, support and sensitivity. The book is interspersed with many photos which were selected specifically to depict the story being told and gives the reader an accurate picture of what life is like among the giants.

The Wonders of Dog Therapy

Excerpt from Life Among the Giants

Years ago, when we had Murphy and Bailey, I was making semi-annual trips to New Brunswick to visit my mom who was in a long care facility. On a lot of these trips I would take Bailey along with me because mom always loved these big dogs, so a visit from both her son and Bailey was indeed a high point. Bailey would accompany me to her room and we would all spend great afternoons together. During one of these visits, the attendants brought in a lady in a wheelchair to see the 'big dog'. This lady was in her 90's and had been at the facility for a couple of months and had yet to communicate to anyone. She was angry that she had to be there, so had refused to talk to anyone and kept to herself. The staff wheeled her into mom's room and sat her on the chesterfield. Bailey, who had been lying on the other side of the room next to mom, immediately got up and went to see this lady. He laid his huge head on her lap, and waited for a scratch. The lady started petting his head and smiled. Within minutes she was talking to us all, telling us about dogs she had known in her life. The staff was shocked, and we were introduced to Dog Therapy.



For information and ordering :

Website : www.lifeamongthegiants.com

Email : info@lifeamongthegiants.com

Tel : (613) 347 3014

NOTE: Book to be released early September. Please visit the website for news and to be reminded when book is released by Essence Publishing of Belleville, Ontario.

Newfs on the Go

Members of the NFNC gathered at Ellen Lamke's house in July for some water fun. A big Newfie thank you to Ellen for hosting this event.



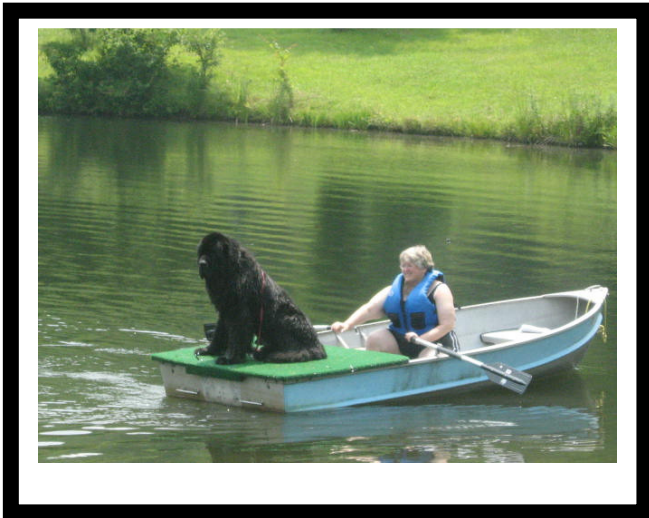
Ryan with Abby & Lily.



The puppy with no name!



Joel relaxes by the pond with Abby.



Byron and Denise.
Row, Row Row your Newf!

Ellen takes a dip
with Morgan.



IN MEMORIAM





Beware of Beavers

Bella, a Newfoundland dog from Maryland, was drowned while pursuing a beaver across a creek. Three other beavers dove into the water and formed a semi-circle around her as they herded her towards the dam. Struggling against the current, she became exhausted and was pulled under by the three beavers. The owner and friends attempted to find Bella by searching the banks of the creek and the beaver dam, but Bella was never found.

Please leash your dogs when out for walk, especially if there are signs of beaver activity in the area. It only takes a second for a dog to spot a beaver and to pursue it in the water. Beavers can hold their breath for 15 minutes, so dogs don't have a chance once they are pulled under.



North America has the highest population of dogs in the world.

The oldest dog on record is 29 years old. He was an Australian Cattle-Dog.

The oldest breed in the world is a Saluki - royal dog of Egypt and recognized as far back as 329 B.C.

The oldest American dog breed is the American Foxhound. They date back to 1650.

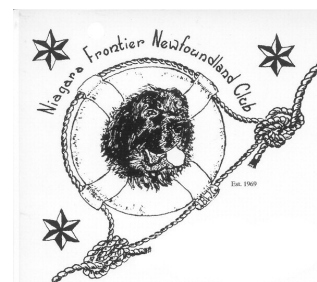
Warning: Tylenol

Over-the-counter pain relievers are also known as NSAIDs — non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. This group of drugs includes aspirin, acetaminophen (Tylenol™), ibuprofen (Advil™ & Nuprin™) and naproxen or phenylbutazone.

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, drug poisoning is the most common small animal poison exposure. AVMA cautions pet owners to contact a veterinarian before dosing a pet with any medication because even if the drug is safe in some doses, it may not be safe in human doses. In addition, dogs do not utilize or tolerate all drugs the same way humans do, so a drug that relieves pain in humans can poison a dog or cat.

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[AVMA Pet Poison Guide](http://www.avma.org/pubhlth/poisingde.html) is available on the American Veterinary Medical Association website at <http://www.avma.org/pubhlth/poisingde.html>



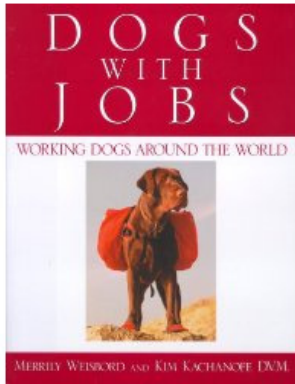


Recipes for the dog who'll eat anything

Pup Pops

- 1 quart fruit juice
- 1 banana, mashed
- 1/2 Cup yogurt

Thoroughly mix ingredients together. Freeze treats in an ice-cube tray or in a pan. Cut into pieces.



Dog with Jobs: Working Dogs Around the World
by Merrily Weisbord & Kim Kachanofe DVM. Published by Simon & Schuster, New York

Dogs with Jobs profiles 21 working dogs from around the world including guide dogs for the blind, snake-catchers, termite-finders, lost pet-locators and many more. Heart-warming stories on each dog and lots of pictures make this a must read for any dog lover.

NFNC Board of Directors 2008 - 2009

President:	Lonnie Specht
Vice President	Jennifer Dominguez
Treasurer	Jennifer Allen
Recording Secretary	Denise Koch
Corresponding Secretary	Ellen Lamke
Board Members	Joel Allen, Amy Chiu & Michele Morris

Interested in Joining the NFNC?

Contact:
Lonnie Specht
585-655-4907
windsweptnewf@yahoo.com

NFNC meets bimonthly.
NFNC Meeting Minutes are distributed to members via email or UPS.



Deadline for submissions to the Winter Newsletter is November 10, 2008.

**Here! There!
Everywhere there's Hair!**

Don't know what to do with all that dog hair? Need a pair of gloves, hat or scarf for the winter?



Dog hair can be donated to be spun into wool. Or, you can have an item made especially for you from your furry friend's hair.

Contact Michele Morris for more information.
micheledmorris1@msn.com

Items Wanted or For Sale? Litter Announcements?

Advertise Here!

Full Page: \$5.00

Half Page: \$2.50

Quarter Page: \$1.00

All checks payable to Niagara Frontier Newfoundland Club

No cost for In Memoriam announcements.

Articles, photos and announcements must be submitted by the 10th of the month prior to publication. Photos, articles and announcements can be submitted via email to jvdominguez@wildmail.com or by UPS 118 Rosemont Drive, Amherst, NY 14226.

NewfieNews is a quarterly publication of the Niagara Frontier Newfoundland Club.

Fall (September)	Spring (March)
Winter (December)	Summer (June)