

# IS A NEWFOUNDLAND FOR YOU

**Please read these few articles below before buying your first Newfoundland. They are a wonderful breed but they are definitely not for everyone. We only ask that you take the time to research all aspects of the breed and make an educated and informed decision about adding a Newfoundland to you home. We hope this site will aide you in your decision.**

## **Finding Out If The Newfoundland Is The Right Dog For You.**

The Newfoundland Club of America and most of the regional clubs provide referral to Newfoundland breeders. Selecting the right breeder can be the most important step you will take. While we cannot select one specific breeder for you, NCA can provide some suggestions to help you.

An excellent way to begin is to go to a dog show. To find out when and where a show will be held in your area, try the following sources: your regional Newfoundland club; ask a local veterinarian if he has clients whom show dogs that you may contact; or contact the American Kennel Club for the name and phone number of a dog show superintendent. About a week before the show, call the superintendent and ask if, when and how many Newfs will be shown. At the show, let the exhibitors know you are there and - after the judging of Newfs is finished - ask lots of questions. Most of them will be glad to tell you about their dogs and the dogs' breeders. Some may be breeders themselves.

Good Newfs are not identical in either appearance or personality, and you will probably prefer some types more than others. Look the dogs over carefully, both during and after judging. That's what the show is for! When your ideas have crystallized to some extent, phone or write a few breeders. Do not be taken in by fancy ads; beware of a breeder who promises very much more or less than others, or whose price quotations are very much higher or lower than others. But remember that Newfoundland puppies can vary in cost depending on age and potential quality.

## **Visiting The Breeder Of Your Puppy**

If possible, visit the breeder personally to select your puppy, even if this means a long drive. This will enable you to meet the breeder and see the conditions in the kennel. Although elaborate equipment is not a necessity, the facilities can and should be spotlessly clean. A good breeder will also question you during the visit about your plans and your own facilities for a Newfoundland. He may be rightfully concerned if you do not have a fenced yard, because he doesn't want to hear shortly that your Newf was hit by a car. Also, beware of the breeder who wants to sell you a puppy less than eight weeks of age. Reputable breeders will typically keep the puppies until at least eight weeks of age when they will have been examined by a veterinarian for inherited health defects and conditions. They will have been given at least one series of vaccinations and be declared free of all parasites.

Many Newf owners are delighted with dogs they bought sight unseen from breeders they have never met face-to-face. Indeed, some of the best-known kennels have shipped puppies all over North America and even to remote corners of the world. If a visit to a breeder of interest to you is not practicable, plan to write some letters or spend some time on the phone. A good breeder is proud of his reputation and will be happy to supply you with references to satisfied customers, and to persons of long standing as Newf fanciers, who know him and his stock. Such persons can also give you valuable information as to the breeder's previous accomplishments, and the primary features he stresses in his breeding program.

You are far less likely to obtain satisfaction in dealing with a commercial outlet or a pet store. Good breeders will never sell to pet shops or puppy mills. Indeed, these establishments usually obtain stock which cannot be sold on a breeder's reputation. Yet, typically, they charge more for a very mediocre or poor specimen than a good breeder will ask for one of his outstanding prospects. A reputable breeder will follow the development of his stock, while a dealer will have no interest after the completion of the sale. The Newfoundland Club of America prohibits its members from selling to pet stores.

### **Registration With The AKC**

A Newf puppy from an AKC registered litter will be eligible for individual registration with the American Kennel Club, the principal registry for purebred dogs in the U.S. When buying a puppy, one should be given either an AKC registration application with the litter number on it, or the AKC registration certificate with the individual dog's registered name and number on it, properly signed. AKC has available two different registration certificates. Regular AKC registration, (white certificate with purple border) and Limited Registration, (white certificate with orange border.)

Regular AKC registration entitles the dog to compete in all AKC events, and the offspring of a dog for which full registration is granted, will be eligible for registration. Limited Registration maybe used by the breeder to prevent indiscriminate breeding, regardless of that individual Newf's potential for breeding or showing. No offspring of a dog for which Limited Registration has been granted is eligible for registration. Each Limited Registration certificate for such dogs shall carry notice of the limitation, and the limitation shall continue, regardless of any change in ownership, unless and until the owner(s) of the litter at birth shall apply to AKC for removal of the limitation. If for some reason the breeder or seller cannot provide the AKC registration application at the time of sale, demand a written promise of when it will be provided. The breeder should also provide such pertinent data as whelping date, sire, dam, pedigree, immunization and worming records, and recommended diet and feeding

### **The Pedigree**

The pedigree is a four or five-generation history of your dog's ancestry (a family tree). A conscientious breeder who has spent much time studying and working with the breed should offer to explain the qualifications of the parents and why they were a proper mating. It is nice to have a Newf of champion parents, but it is even more important that the parents be of proven breeding quality. Many great breeding quality dogs have never been shown, but do produce quality puppies when properly mated.

### **Puppy Quality**

AKC registration and/or pedigree in no way indicates the quality of the puppy. Puppies can be evaluated as possessing show potential or as pet quality. Breeders differ in their approaches to evaluating puppies. A show prospect puppy is one that possesses the potential of meeting the breed standard approved by the AKC, exhibiting virtues of the breed with the absence of faults. Such show prospects may or may not eventually make good breeding stock. A breeding quality dog should generally be a superior representative of the breed, as well as being free of all serious hereditary defects or faults (even if the faults would not be visible in a show ring). A good breeding quality Newf is usually determined only after the dog has matured and has produced litters which can be evaluated for quality. Pet quality dogs are just as enjoyable as family companions. They are not meant for conformation showing, should not be bred and should be spayed or neutered. Thus one should not buy a pet quality Newf if one plans to use it for conformation shows or for breeding. However, pet quality Newfs may compete in obedience and in water or draft

The puppy will hopefully mature to a temperament and appearance somewhat similar to his parents. Is that what you want in a dog? Do the parents conform to the standard of the breed? Pick a puppy with a good head, top-line, and movement and, of course, a personality that you like. You must allow for changes, which will occur as the puppy matures. Most Newfs go through some awkward stages, especially during the first year, and at times seem to be all ears, all legs, or awkward because of uneven growth. Be patient; most will mature to be beautiful adults. The first year the puppy will get his height, the second year he acquires muscle and rib spring, and the third year he reaches maturity. Remember, there is no sure-fire method of selecting the puppy who will be successful in the show ring. At first glance, all the puppies may look alike to you. But look closely; they are all at least a little different in looks and movement, and each has a personality all his own. Above all, choose a puppy in good health. The breeder can provide assistance in the selection, but quality is only an educated guess when the puppy is but eight weeks old.

### **Written Contracts**

Many breeders have sales contracts or agreements. As with any contract or agreement, these should be read carefully and discussed in detail with the breeder before signing. Most breeders will offer a contract or agreement concerning puppies crippled with hip dysplasia or found to have a heart defect. Such contracts or agreements may also cover neutering, or care required to be provided by the buyer. As there is much discussion and controversy concerning this subject, the buyer should discuss these items on an individual basis with the breeder. Newfoundlands are also to some degree subject to heart defects, hereditary in nature. No bloodline is absolutely free of all hereditary problems, but a breeder should be ready to discuss openly any dogs in his kennel and their pedigrees as they are affected by hip dysplasia and heart defects. All breeds have tendencies toward various hereditary defects that require consideration in choosing a puppy. (But do not be misled into believing that mongrels are superior in this respect - they lack only a basis on which the likelihood of hereditary disease can be evaluated.)

The AKC requires that breeders keep full and accurate records of their litters. Any breeder should be interested in the progress of all the puppies he sells. If for some reason you find that you are unable to keep your Newf, the first person you should contact is the breeder. The breeder can often help find a new home for the Newf and in any event will want to have the name and address of the new owner. If you are unable to contact the breeder, please contact NCA or the regional club in your area for help in finding a good home for your Newf.

***Please note: any person that you buy a puppy from should be familiar with the information contained in the document above. One good way of judging a breeder's level of skill and knowledge is to ask them questions that you have after reading those documents. They don't have to agree with everything in those documents, but they should be able to discuss the issues that you raise and tell you why they disagree.***

**The above information was obtained from the Newfoundland Club of America website**