

So You Want A Newf!

So you and your family have sat down and decided that a Newfoundland might just be the best choice for your family. That's great! Awesome, in fact! This breed is truly a fantastic family dog and, like any, really get to hold a special place in your heart.

Many people like the Newfoundland because of their excellent temperament and calm disposition, their caring nature, and even the fact that they are great working dogs and exhibit natural life saving talents. Some people are just enamoured with their sheer size with males averaging between 130-150 pounds and roughly 28 inches in height, and females in at around the 100-120 pound mark and an average of 26 inches in height. If you are just looking for a Newfoundland because of their size, then this might not be the breed for you. Also, for those of you with small children, remember that though these guys naturally love children, they must always be supervised. They often do not realize just how big they are and can accidentally harm a child by knocking them down when playing.

I can't stress enough to my clients to make sure that they do their research. Spend time around a Newf if you haven't before. And for all you fans of The Force, become one with the drool and the hair. That's right! These guys are definitely not the tidiest of breeds. They slobber, they drool, and they shed. Though some may not necessarily drool as badly as others, you will never find one that DOES NOT DROOL! And believe me, they can get drool on a nine foot ceiling when they shake their heads after a drink or a meal. So, if you are not deterred in the slightest, or even slightly repulsed, that there will forever be drool and hair on the arms of your sofa and your lap most likely, then read on, Dear Reader! Read on!

As a double coated breed, there is grooming involved. I suggest a good brushing at least once a week, preferably more. A good sturdy comb or straight pin brush usually gets the job done. But be sure you are brushing down to the skin. It really doesn't take long for those pesky mats to appear. Even if you visit a groomer regularly for baths and full grooming jobs, you are still going to need to brush the dog out weekly.

Being a double coated breed means that they have a fluffy and somewhat dense undercoat, hence having to ensure you are making it all

the way through to the skin with your comb or brush. But this coat is what keeps the dog warm in the frigid Atlantic waters, during the cold Alberta winters, and cool in the summer. It's a dual purpose coat, and you should never shave a Newf. So if you are still looking for a giant breed dog, but the hair is an issue, maybe look at a different breed.

If you've made it through to this paragraph, then awesome! Onto the short lifespan. And by now, I hope that you may have done some research in this area. A blatantly honest part of owning a Newfoundland is that compared to breeds which are much smaller, they do have a shorter lifespan. Their best years are from puppy to about ten. Afterwards, their age starts to show. They slow down immensely around nine, and average 10 to 12 years for a life expectancy. This is just part of a giant breed. Their bodies age faster than that of other breeds.

A Newfoundland is also more prone to hip issues, heart problems and even issues such as cherry eye, which is common with breeds with droopy faces. A common error is that an owner over exerts their young puppy, sometimes causing joint damage. These guys believe that they can take on the entire world at a very young age, so an owner must do their due diligence and ensure that no accidents happen to the developing joints.

Another thing many new owners are not prepared for is the cost of owning a Newf. Yes, you are going to spend more at the groomers. And yes, you are going to spend more on a vet visit. Giant breeds generally cost more in these areas, along with higher costs of food as something that is good quality is always recommended. A large breed specific diet has the right balance of proteins, fats and nutrients which a growing puppy and even a mature adult requires.

For a family who spends a lot of time on holidays, you must also account for boarding/ kennelling as well if the dog is unable to travel with you. Now, kindly keep in mind that your Newfoundland will want to spend as much time with their family as they possibly can. But if the need arises and a kennel is required, have a plan as some do not cater to giant breeds. Those that do may also charge slightly more for the extra work. Remember, bigger dog equals bigger poops!

Newfoundlands are intelligent. But be warned! They can also be exceedingly stubborn. Consistent training is imperative, and I love to see a Newf at work. They love to carry bags, baskets and lend a paw where they can. But just as one must exercise caution for overworking a young Newf, they must also be adequately exercised. These guys can be fairly lazy, so

be motivated. You don't want to end up with an obese Newfoundland. Being overweight can be extremely detrimental to their hearts and joints and can lower their life expectancy just as it would a human.

All of the dogs in our breeding program are cleared by OFA for their hips and hearts. These clearances and preliminaries allow us to extend our health guarantee to our clients against anything genetic with hips and hearts. All puppies are kept until ten weeks of age, and prior to being placed are vet checked, dewormed, vaccinated with their first set of shots, microchipped and of course they come CKC registered. All puppies are sold on a strict non breeding contract which must be signed prior to the puppy going to their new home.

If you've finally made it this far, then I commend you! It's time to move on to filling out a puppy application. This application helps to give us an idea of the lifestyle and environment a potential family would be providing for a puppy. It allows us to be better able to match a puppy's personality and characteristics to a family. For example, I wouldn't want to place an overly exuberant puppy with a family who is looking for a more laid back puppy. I look forward to hearing from you, and even mores to the possibility of having you come out and visit with us and the Drool Team here. I hope to be able to place a puppy with you who is sure to be your best Shipmate.