

Rescue Policies and Procedures

Objectives:

- ❖ To match available Newfs with foster families and adoptive owners who have been screened for suitability.
- ❖ To ensure adopted Newfs are happy within their foster and new adoptive homes.
- ❖ To spay/neuter all rescued dogs to protect the viability of the Newfoundland breed.
- ❖ To further educate new adoptive families by introducing them to SENC activities.

Screening:

- ❖ Obtain names of potential new owners through referrals from club members and/or advertising.
- ❖ Interview the prospective foster/adoptive family via the completed foster/adoption application form.
- ❖ Conduct home inspections for foster and adoptive families.
- ❖ Discuss the Newf's general characteristics, owner's involvement with the dog, and Placement agreement.
- ❖ Maintain a current file of prospective foster/adoptive families.

Newfs in Animal Shelters:

When an animal shelter advises SENC Rescue that they have a Newfoundland, an authorized rescue representative will go to the shelter to observe and physically examine the dog, acquire all available information about the dog and, if necessary, seek the opinion of another SENC club member to decide if the dog is a purebred Newf.

Private Owner or Breeder Assistance:

If a private owner or breeder surrenders a Newf for adoption, SENC Rescue will follow all policies and procedures, and in addition will obtain a pedigree, complete medical history or veterinarian's name, a quick assessment of the dog's temperament, and the AKC registration (if available).

NOTE – AKC registrations will be marked 'VOID'.

In the event that an SENC club member/breeder has a dog that is turned in to rescue, the member/breeder will be responsible for all expenses incurred.

Report of a Neglected/Abused Newfoundland:

- ❖ Notify Rescue Chair of situation and Chair will notify SENC Board.
- ❖ Notify the proper authorities and work with them to get the dog released to SENC Rescue.

Pet Store Policy:

SENC's current policy regarding Newfoundland puppies for sale in pet shops does not include buying the puppy since the purchase creates a demand for future sales and rewards each participant in the marketing chain – the producer, the broker and the retailer, all of whom profit from the sale.

The Newfoundland Club of America (NCA) Rescue Network is interested in obtaining any information concerning puppies sold in pet shops, including date of birth, date of shipment to the store, USDA breeders and brokers, etc. This information is valuable and is used to determine the basis for complaints to USDA for violations of the Animal Welfare Act. Observations of cruelty and neglect at the retail level can be reported to the local humane officer who enforces local humane ordinances. Members are encouraged to leave the name and address of a rescue contact person.

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General Policies and Procedures that apply to all Rescued Newfoundlands:

- ❖ If a rescued Newf bitch is known to be in whelp at the time of acquisition and it is early enough to abort/spay (vet opinion required) – it must be done. If it's too late in the pregnancy to abort/spay, the fate of any puppies that are whelped is to be determined on an individual basis.
- ❖ Use of a clinic that is local is permitted. This saves out-of-pocket travel expenses on the part of the rescue group. Committee members shall make every effort to keep the cost of good care as low as possible. Shots may be given by a rescue group member, as approved by a veterinarian.
- ❖ All Newfs rescued by SENC Rescue shall receive a permanent ID microchip before placement. The permanent ID shall be registered in the name of SENC and the adopting owner. **SENC is always listed as first owner and the adoptive family listed as second contact.
- ❖ SENC Rescue shall find or provide temporary foster homes for all rescued Newfs where behavior and health will be monitored. Evaluation notes will be made on these observations. (See "*Foster Evaluation*" Form)
- ❖ Club members interested in fostering a rescued Newf shall abide by the "*Foster Family Guidelines*" which are provided as part of these policies. The foster family must receive a copy of the "*Foster Family Guidelines*".
- ❖ Rescued Newfs will be held for as long as deemed necessary, at which time the Rescue committee will evaluate the dog and make a final decision as to the disposition of the dog. In addition, the foster home will serve as an advisory position to the committee on an individual basis.
- ❖ Foster families shall attempt to correct behavioral problems, including remedial obedience training, and clear up any health problems in accordance with veterinary recommendations.
- ❖ If a rescued Newf is determined to be unsuitable for placement due to severe health and/or temperament issues and euthanasia is the only option, the Rescue Chair will confer with the SENC President, who will relay the message to the Board. The Board will confer and notify the Chair of their decision. Documentation must be placed as "*Priority*" in the dog's file.
- ❖ A "*Rescue Placement Agreement*" form must be signed by a pre-approved adoptive family, which is then sent to the Rescue Chair.
- ❖ An adoption fee of \$380.00 shall be charged to the new adoptive owners and must be paid in full before the dog is turned over. Adoption fees must be paid by either personal checks or bank drafts. Adoption fees may vary according to age or the condition of the dog; this dollar amount is approved by the SENC President and Rescue Chair.

Purchase of Newfoundlands:

The SENC Board of Directors, Officers and General Membership voted that the Rescue committee **WILL NOT purchase dogs from any source**. Purchase does not include shelter adoption fees.

Miscellaneous:

Poll members annually to review interest and opportunity to work as a Rescue committee member. Write '*Thank You*' notes for any donations or other situations as designated by the Rescue Chair.

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Resignation Procedures:

Committee Members:

All resignations must be given in writing to the Rescue Chair and must *clearly* state the exact position they are resigning from and the date the resignation is to be effective. You will have thirty (30) days from the date your resignation is effective to turn in any/all rescue materials that you may have to the Rescue Chair.

Rescue Chairperson:

All chairperson resignations follow the SENC's Constitution and By-Laws and according to it, must be given in writing to the SENC Secretary and must *clearly* state whether you are resigning from Rescue completely or staying on as a committee member, and the date the resignation is to be effective. You will have thirty (30) days from the date your resignation is effective to turn in any/all rescue materials that you may have to the new Rescue Chair or the SENC Secretary.

This information has been compiled by the Southeastern Newfoundland Club, as part of their comprehensive rescue program. We are grateful for their generosity in sharing all of their hard work.- NCA 2006

