



Working Dog News

SUPPORTING TRAINERS,
HANDLERS, JUDGES AND
REGIONAL CLUBS.

3rd Quarter 2023



UPCOMING EVENTS

See what's happening for [Working Dogs](#).

In This Issue

Whether your dog is working toward an obedience title, working toward a draft or water title or even just working toward being a good family pet, it is very important to keep your newf in good physical shape. This article outlines some very fun ways you can "shape up" your newfie!

In this issue, you will also find updates, a few reminders and a request for photos to make us all smile. Please let us know your thoughts and as always, feel free to reach out to us at workingdog@ncadogs.org with any questions.

Water Season Wrap Up and Feedback

The NCA Working Dog Committee salutes all the Regional Clubs who put on so many successful Water Tests this summer! There are still a few to go, but as "water training season" wraps up, we encourage those of you who have feedback regarding the regulations to send us your thoughts.

The Water Trial regulations will be under review for grammatical, layout and content adjustments this winter. If you want to provide your input, [please email us](#).

If you entered a water test this season, please be sure to [submit an evaluation survey](#) if you have not already done so.

FEATURED ARTICLES

CHECK OUT THESE RESOURCES FROM FELLOW TRAINERS

50 Years of NCA Water Tests

Sending huge congratulations to the Great Lakes Newfoundland Club on hosting their 50th Annual NCA Water Test.

"So much work and preparation goes into such a complex activity. Old and new friends came together to share in the joy of watching beautiful teams work in the water, while visiting and learning a few training options. Watching the sun rise each morning surrounded by friends and dogs is a very unique experience. I encourage all Newf owners to give a try at learning what it takes to achieve water dog titles. You can train your dog or volunteer for next year. You will create a bond and lifetime memories that make you smile." - Cindy

"You guys did an amazing job putting this test together! Thank you for all your hard work! It was a great weekend!" - Lori

"It was a great weekend. The test committee and all of those who helped out made it such a great experience. There's so much that goes on behind the scenes and yet it's all that plus what we see happening that pulls everything together to make a great experience happen. So a huge thank you to everyone who helped this weekend it was truly appreciated" - Melanie

Thanks to Jerry D'Ambrosi, "Jerry was asked to recreate the trophies from the first water test held 50 years ago. He sat here after long hours at work, and hand carved each head. There are roughly five hours spent on each head, just carving. 15 heads in total. Just think, not only the 50th Anniversary, but fifty years of purpose bred dogs. Thank you so much Great Lakes Newfoundland Club." - Ann

"Shout out to the club and all the workers for an excellent water trial. Job WELL DONE. And huge CONGRATULATIONS to all the qualifiers." - Eugene



Turning Toward Draft Work? Find a ton of "how-tos" on our website!

Now that fall is in the near horizon, many clubs are looking for ideas on how to conduct draft workshops, and dogs and handlers are looking for great tips on

- How do you get started?
- How does a good harness fit?
- What kind of training can I do to learn more on my own?

-What information does my club need to put on a seminar?

Look no further!! There is a wealth of information at your fingertips! When you click on the website link for draft work, and scroll down to the Resources, there are videos and guides available for all aspects of draft work!

The **Draft Equipment Guide** gives you a great overview of how to find the right equipment for your carting fun. Complete with tons of illustrations to help you learn about all things draft.

All the exercises are there so you can get a virtual walk through of what to expect!

Many different training videos too from how to execute good turns to how to execute the driven figure 8!

Even some cool plans to DIY your cart to haul your next Christmas Tree!!

[READ MORE](#)

Canine Conditioning

Canine conditioning is the process of physically and mentally preparing a dog for specific tasks or activities. It is especially important for giant breed dogs, as these breeds tend to have unique physical and health needs that require specialized conditioning in order to thrive. Some advantages for Newfoundlands are:

Improved physical health: Giant breed dogs are prone to joint problems, such as hip dysplasia, due to their size and weight. Canine conditioning can help these dogs maintain a healthy weight, which can alleviate stress on their joints and reduce the risk of developing these problems. In addition, conditioning can help giant breed dogs build muscle strength, which can improve their overall physical health and reduce the risk of injury.

Enhanced mental health: Canine conditioning can also have a positive impact on a giant breed dog's mental health. It can provide a sense of purpose and structure, as well as a way to burn off excess energy and reduce stress. This can help prevent behaviors such as destructive chewing or excessive barking, which can be common problems in giant breed dogs that do not receive enough mental and physical stimulation.

Increased lifespan: Giant breed dogs have a shorter lifespan compared to smaller breeds, with an average lifespan of 6-10 years. Canine conditioning can help improve a giant breed dog's overall health and well-being, which can lead to a longer and healthier life.

Improved behavior: Canine conditioning can also help improve a giant breed dog's behavior, as it provides a way for them to channel their energy and focus their attention. This can be especially beneficial for giant breed dogs that may have a high prey drive or are prone to chasing smaller animals.

Enhanced bonding: Finally, canine conditioning can be a great way for owners of giant breed dogs to bond with their pets. It allows owners to spend quality time with their dogs and work together towards a common goal. This can strengthen the bond between owner and dog and create a stronger sense of trust and loyalty.

Some examples of good canine conditioning activities include:

Push-Ups: Have your dog go from stand to sit to down, then back to sit and then stand, repeat 2-3 times.

Back Bends: Standing behind your dog lure their nose back towards their tail with a treat, repeat on the left and right. Expert level - have your dog stand with their front paws up on a step, table or pilates ball

Figure-Eights: Place two objects about 6 feet apart, walk with your dog in a figure-eight pattern. Expert level - have your dog do clockwise and counter-clockwise spins.



Bowing: Mark a bow behavior when your dog offers a stretch after napping, or lure your dog into a bow with a treat. Repeat 3-5 times. Expert level - have your dog stand with their hind feet on a small (about 6") platform and bow.

Balancing: Walk across an uneven surface - this could be a thick foam mattress pad, a slightly under inflated air mattress, a rebounder trampoline or a wobble-board.

Canine conditioning is an important aspect of care for giant breed dogs. It can help improve their physical and mental health, increase their lifespan, improve their behavior, and enhance the bond between owner and pet. By incorporating canine conditioning into their care routine, owners of giant breed dogs can help ensure that their pets live long and healthy lives.

Taking it to the next level: **Understanding your dog's communication through body language**

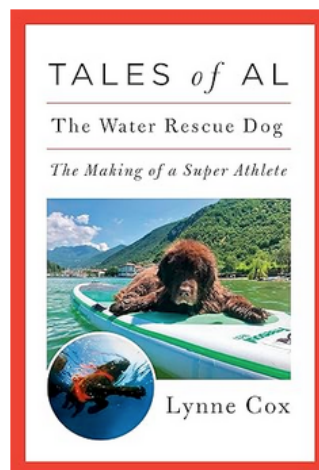
While you are building your Newf's skill and stamina through conditioning and training for obedience, draft or rally events this fall, learning more about how your dog is communicating with you is also key to a well rounded and successful team.

Check out this article shares great tips and ways you can improve your communication with your Newf and understand more about what your dog is saying through their body language. [READ MORE](#)

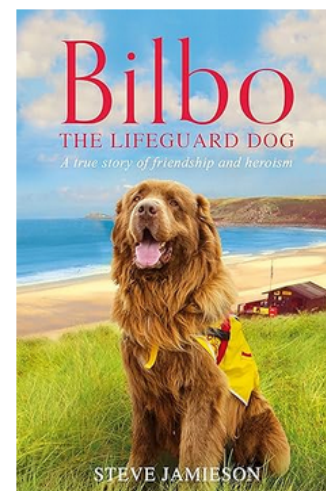
Real-Life Rescue Dog Reads



Our story of Whizz, the infamous Newfoundland rescue dog, follows his life path, from the hairy bundle of fluff arriving upon David Pugh's doorstep to the super-hero and top dog we all came to know and love. Top water rescue dog of Newfound Friends, Whizz was a vital asset to this charity; raising money for over twenty-five years. To date, over £1.5 million pounds has funded many causes; the main establishment being Little Bridge House, a



The moving, inspiring story of Al, the ungainly, unruly, irresistible Newfoundland puppy who grows up to become a daring rescue dog and super athlete—part of Italy's elite, highly specialized corps of water rescue dogs who swoop out of helicopters and save lives. And when Lynne Cox saw a video of a Newfoundland dog leaping from an airborne helicopter into Italian waters to save someone from drowning, Cox was transfixed by the rescue, and captivated by the



When Steve Jamieson met Bilbo, a Newfoundland puppy, little did he know that the small bundle of fluff would grow to take up a huge space in his heart and change his life forever. The pair were inseparable, with Bilbo accompanying Steve to his job as head lifeguard of Sennen beach in Cornwall every day. With his webbed paws and thick, double layer of fur, Bilbo was an excellent swimmer and was promoted to honorary lifeguard.

hospice and respite care centre for terminally ill children.

magnificence, physicality, and daring of the dog.

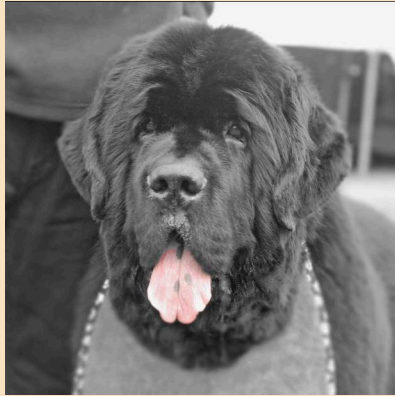
He was even credited with saving the lives of three people.

[Buy The Book](#)

[Buy The Book](#)

[Buy The Book](#)

Regional Clubs Please Note:



Check out the **Test Committee Toolkit** on the NCA website, there is a great deal of information on how to get your next draft test a-rollin!

Remember that applications for draft tests get mailed to Patti Pigeon. There is a late fee if not mailed within the time limit so please don't delay in getting your test paperwork submitted!

If you held working events over the summer, please share the exhibitor evaluation links listed below with your participants and remind them to complete them

asap.

And if you have some great training videos to share, please **send them to us** so we can add them to the collection!

[Contact the Working Dog Committee](#)

[Water Test Exhibitors Evaluation](#)

[Draft Test Exhibitors Evaluation](#)

RESOURCE GUIDE

Need help getting started with a working event? Check out these tools for Regional Clubs!

[WORKING DOG COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARIES](#)

[ONLINE ENTRY SYSTEM](#)

[WORKING TEST GUIDE](#)

[NCA CODE OF ETHICS](#)

[TEST COMMITTEE FAQ's](#)

[WATER TEST JUDGES](#)

[DRAFT TEST JUDGES](#)

[AKC CODE OF SPORTSMANSHIP](#)



Judge's Corner

Please Note: The NCA Board approved the proposed changes to the Requirements for becoming a Judge, please [review them here](#).

Reminder: Judges - we are offering a new option for email on the NCA website. You may now enter a "public display email" in your member profile. This will allow you to have a designated email address just for public display, so you can easily sort and find communication coming from the NCA website, and to protect your private home or work email from scam, phishing emails or mass marketers.

To add a public email, go to the **Member Portal**, select "My Profile" then select the red "Edit Profile" button. Add the email address you wish to use in the "Public eMail Address" field. Then click the red "SAVE" button at the top of the page.

You may wish to get a free email address through Gmail or other service to use specifically for this purpose.

[Judge's Status Update](#)

[Judge's Code of Ethics](#)

[Water test Judges Evaluation](#)

[Draft Test Judges Evaluation](#)

If you would like to share photos of working dogs at work (and play), please send them in - we'd love to see them! Make sure you have permission from the photographer for us to use the photos for publication.

[SUBMIT PHOTOS](#)



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