



Working Dog News

SUPPORTING TRAINERS,
HANDLERS, JUDGES AND
REGIONAL CLUBS.

4th Quarter 2024



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

It's the Season for Christmas Tree Pulls!

From east to west, north and south in sun or snow or rain, Newfs and their dedicated owners braved all kinds of weather to share the spirit of the holidays with their communities. How heartwarming to see so many Regional Club posting pictures of our gentle giants at the very best, being breed ambassadors with the public, and putting their draft skills to work raising money for worthy causes.

In this issue look for important information about updates to Water Test Regulations, Tips and video tutorials for Draft Work, some social media resources for training, a New Year Resolution to get in shape and more!

Getting Most out of Social Media

Opportunities abound on social media and the web to increase your skill set, add to your knowledge base or build your network of training colleagues to brainstorm and collaborate with. Take advantage of these many opportunities, but remember that you should check in with your veterinarian to make sure that your Newf is fit and healthy before undertaking any fitness, training or other strenuous exercise programs.

We all know the time drain that can happen, the mindless scrolling through funny cat videos, or the endless crock pot meals that's, lets face it, we're never going to make, but did you know there are some nuggets of treasure hiding out there? Here are some useful Facebook™ Groups, YouTube™ Channels, Podcasts and TikToks™ to follow.

[Read More](#)

Regulations Updated!

The NCA Board of Directors recently approved the revisions of the NCA Water Test Regulations which can be found now on the NCA Website. After a very comprehensive review, many editorial

changes have been made to keep formatting consistent, clarify several terms, make the additions for height of the underwater retrieve article and inclusion of the out of control dog policy which the board approved earlier. We hope this provides an overall format that will aid entrants and judges in their understanding of the regulations. Clarifications include use of electronic entries, electronic evaluations, changing entries, delineation of test areas, clarifying anchors in WRDX, use of ballast, and wording in some areas of qualifying and non qualifying actions. These are important areas for test committees, entrants and judges to note for the coming water season.

It is important to note that the essential elements of the Water Test Regulations remain the same as the previous version. The document is linked below in TWO formats

- **The version with all printed edits, corrections and changes listed in RED within the document**
- **The “clean copy” version for you to download and keep in your test committee folders and your personal water training materials (We actually REDUCED the volume by 3 pages!)**

The NCA continues to review policies for all aspects of our Newfoundland dog sports with an eye toward good sportsmanship, fair competition and safety, the WDC continues to uphold the basic principles of demonstrating natural ability and skills acquired through training, and most importantly, the teamwork between dog and handler in simulated work and rescue situations.

FEATURED ARTICLES

CHECK OUT THESE RESOURCES FROM FELLOW TRAINERS



Customizing Carts for Tree Pulls

With so many clubs doing tree pulls during the holidays, we are seeing lots of customization to make the job easier and more festive. The Seattle Club uses wooden boxes that hook onto the cart rails to provide an accessible spot for "tips" which the club donates to the Newfoundland Health Challenge. These boxes have a latch closure and the option of locking, along with a slot on the top and a wood-burned Newf. Some clubs even have carts designed specifically to haul trees! What kinds of things does your club do to decorate or facilitate tree pulls? Let Us Know!

[Custom Tree Pull Cart](#)

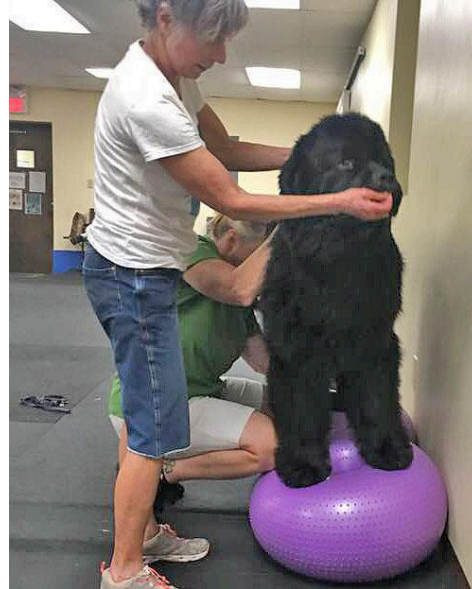
[Send Us YOUR ideas!](#)

New Year Resolution

While the weather outside is frightful, make a resolution to get your canine athlete read for whatever activities 2025 has to offer by implementing some canine conditioning. This will help prevent injury and set you up for success!

Canine Conditioning is very similar to physical therapy and sports conditioning for humans. It uses exercise and/or practice to build the body up for either improved normal performance, as in physical therapy, or in preparation for sports performance. But for our canine companions it goes beyond these ideas.

[Read More](#)



Draft Work Video Library

Check out this great resource - lots of tips and tricks to get started in Draft Work or to refine your skills

[Back Up Tutorial](#)

[NASCAR or Draft Work](#)

[Backing Up with A Christmas Tree](#)

Thanks to everyone who takes the time to capture these teachable moments to share with us all!

Draft Test Tips

Draft test committees:

Please be mindful of the colors you choose for spray lines for marking the ground for draft tests. Entrants and Judges who have color blindness may find some colors harder to see than others when on green grass. White and Yellow are the overall preferred colors for good sight lines for entrants and judges. Please check with entrants and judges if you have to use other colors.

Draft Test Entrants:

When using the leash in BDD, we are getting feedback about how to improve your leash work! Specifically, "it was best to hold the leash all in my left hand to free up the right hand for hand signals. It was also much easier to have a loose leash" -Sue Marino. Give it a try and see if it works for you!



Test Committee Reminders

We celebrate all test committees for their hard work and dedication to working events!

Water and draft test committees:

Thank you so much, test committees, for opening up your water and draft tests to our Our NCA members who are on the path to become judges! Observer judges need to travel to other areas to complete their education and training. We appreciate all you already do to make an observer judge feel welcome. If, in your planning, you have members willing to host observer judges as well as the judging team you are working with, the observers may be open to that experience as well. Thanks in advance!!

REACH OUT if you have questions! Send an email to us at workingdog@ncadogs.org

Interested in Becoming A Judge?

It's a great opportunity to travel, see great dogs, meet super new friends and share your love of the sport!



Here's the link to the application!

Go here:

<https://www.ncadogs.org/forms.html>

Download "Application"

Questions, please call or email us! John

Jackman can help you! Email him at

tsjldj@comcast.net

All the Best in the New Year!

It takes a village to make your events soar! It always amazes me that so many people share the love of Newfoundlands and their unique sports. What an incredible history we all share AND contribute to! We are in this together.

Please reach out to us -- we are always available to help with ideas, suggestions, troubleshooting, call any of us!

Sue Raney and the whole Working Dog Committee.

sue.raney11@gmail.com or workingdog@ncadogs.org



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