

# NEWFOUNDLAND ILLUSTRATED GUIDE



**Official Publication of the Newfoundland Club of America,  
Inc.**

## JUDGING THE NEWFOUNDLAND

The following excerpts from the standard work *"This is the Newfoundland"* were written by the late Mr. and Mrs. Major B. Godsol.

“Remember that type, balance, and general appearance are of the utmost importance. As a breeder, shun those faults that are hard to breed out. As a judge, remember that any dog can gait soundly, but no matter how well he moves, unless he looks like a Newfoundland, he is not typical of the breed. Type is the embodiment of a Standard’s essentials.

“It does not matter whether you are an official in the ring, an interested spectator, or just appraising dogs in your own kennel, judging dogs is an art based on observation. One can read a Standard and quote it verbatim, but that does not enable one to have the proper mental picture of an ideal Newfoundland.

“To appraise dogs correctly, one must possess the basic principles that underlie all good judging:

1. A clearly defined ideal in mind.
2. Power of accurate observation.
3. Sound judgment, which includes the ability to make a logical analysis and to evaluate the good and poor qualities in terms of a sound breeding program.

“Remember, no dog is perfect. He can score well on individual points and still not be balanced. It is good for a novice to learn the parts of a Newfoundland and the relative values attached to each part. However, the animal must be considered as a whole and not as a large number of separate parts in the final analysis.

“We put much emphasis on condition and handling in the show ring in America today. To be sure, fine conditioning and good handling of dogs are things we all like to see at shows. Judging at each show, in this country, is by comparison only with other dogs entered and present at that particular show. When it comes to judging an individual dog, only the degree in which he measures up to his breed Standard counts. In other words, all the grooming and skillful handling cannot change a mediocre dog into a top one, nor are beauty treatments transmitted.

“Finally, remember you are dealing with living things whose fate is in your keeping. The responsibility for the welfare of Newfoundlands as well as the future of the breed is yours.”

# THE NEWFOUNDLAND GUIDE

## PURPOSE

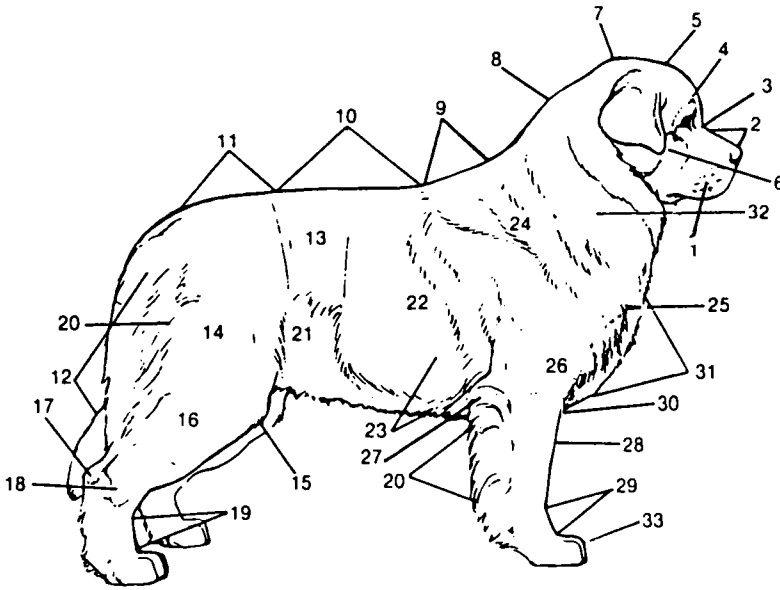
The purpose of this guide is to help judges, breeders and laymen better understand the Standard for the mature Newfoundland dog.

The Standard is the set of criteria by which a dog of a specific breed is to be evaluated while standing and moving. *Type* comprises those characteristics, which distinguish the Newfoundland from other breeds. Proper evaluation of type and soundness takes years of study and experience. In its application to actual dogs, the Standard is inevitably subject to interpretation. It is on the basis of a consensus of individual interpretations over time that the breed either changes or maintains its status quo. Each judge at a dog show interprets the Standard based upon personal likes and dislikes. Similarly, each breeder emphasizes in his breeding program those characteristics he interprets as most important.

The Newfoundland is a swimmer, hauler and gentle companion. The Standard is built around these traits. This pamphlet attempts to explain the relationship of each trait to a specific function essential to it.

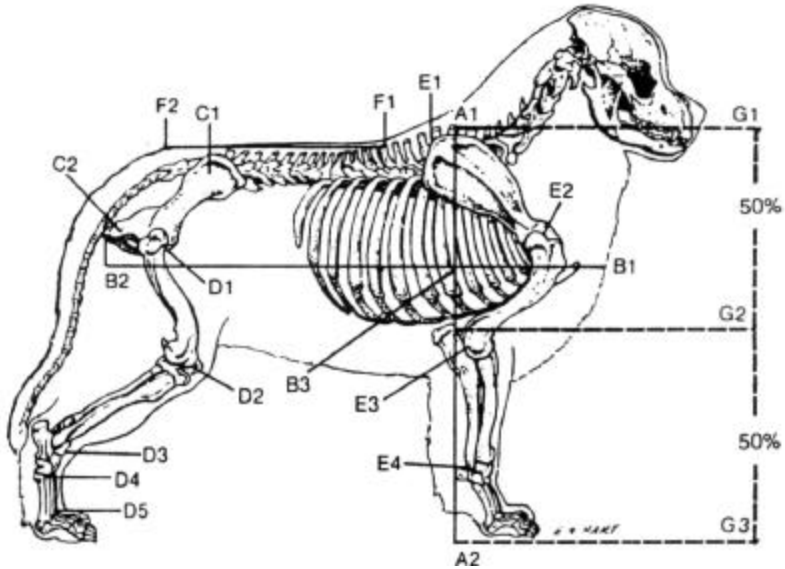
Over the years many breeds have changed, and breed clubs have changed standards to fit new types and interpretations. The original Newfoundland Standard is over 100 years old and while modifications have been made in the interest of clarity, its essentials remain unchanged. The intention of this guide is to keep the Newfoundland as it has been over the years---large, strong and active; at home in water and on land, with his natural life-saving instincts...a multi-purpose dog, capable of heavy work as well as a devoted companion for child and man.

# THE NEWFOUNDLAND ANATOMY



- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Flews               | 18. Hock Joint        |
| 2. Muzzle or Foreface  | 19. Rear Pastern      |
| 3. Stop                | 20. Feathering        |
| 4. Superciliary Ridges | 21. Flank             |
| 5. Skull               | 22. Ribs              |
| 6. Cheek               | 23. Chest             |
| 7. Occiput             | 24. Shoulder          |
| 8. Crest of Neck       | 25. Point of Shoulder |
| 9. Withers             | 26. Upper Arm         |
| 10. Back               | 27. Elbow             |
| 11. Croup              | 28. Forearm           |
| 12. Tail               | 29. Front Pastern     |
| 13. Loin               | 30. Brisket           |
| 14. Upper Thigh        | 31. Forechest         |
| 15. Stifle (knee)      | 32. Ruff              |
| 16. Lower Thigh        | 33. Feet (paws)       |
| 17. Point of Hock      |                       |

## TOPOGRAPHY AND MEASUREMENTS



A1-A2 Height  
 B1-B2 Length  
 B3-B2 Length, withers to croup  
 C1-C2 Slope of Pelvis  
 D1-D2 Line of Femur  
 D2-D3 Line of Tibia  
 D4-D5 Line of Metatarsus  
 D1 thru D3 Rear Angulation  
 E1-E2 Line of Scapula  
 E2-E3 Line of Humerus  
 E3-E4 Line of Radius and Ulna

E1-E3 Front Angulation  
 F1-F2 Topline  
 G1-G2 Distance from withers to elbow and withers to brisket (50%).  
 G2-G3 Distance from elbow to ground and brisket to ground (50%)

# STANDARD FOR NEWFOUNDLANDS

Standard for Newfoundlands, approved by AKC May 1990

Official Standard of the Newfoundland – **Boldface Type**

Interpretive Guidelines by the Committee – *Italics Type*

## GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Newfoundland is a sweet-dispositioned dog that acts neither dull nor ill tempered. He is a devoted companion. A multipurpose dog, at home on land and in water, the Newfoundland is capable of draft work and possesses natural lifesaving abilities.

The Newfoundland is a large, heavily coated, well balanced dog that is deep bodied, heavily boned, muscular, and strong. A good specimen of the breed has dignity and proud head carriage.

The following description is that of the ideal Newfoundland. Any deviation from this ideal is to be penalized to the extent of the deviation. Structural and movement faults common to all working breeds are as undesirable in the Newfoundland as in any other breed, even though they are not specifically mentioned herein.

*The Standard was written for a working dog who could double as a giant retriever, as much at home in the water as on dry land. A superior all-purpose dog, the Newfoundland has been used and is still used around the world as a true working dog. Although he is well known for his water rescue work he also pulls carts and sleds and carries packs.*

*His outstanding character traits are a benevolent disposition and strong lifesaving instincts. Strength and soundness to translate his historical work into effective action require the musculature, coordination, and ability to swim and haul good distances.*

*Temperament is of primary importance. A sense of dignity, strength, and power are softened by a benevolent demeanor. Any indication of ill temper is especially to be guarded against.*

## SIZE, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE

Average height for adult dogs is 28 inches, for adult bitches, 26 inches. Approximate weight of adult dogs ranges from 130 to 150 pounds, adult bitches from 100 to 120 pounds. The dog's appearance is more massive throughout than the bitch's. Large size is desirable, but never at the expense of balance, structure and correct gait. The Newfoundland is slightly longer

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than tall when measured from the point of shoulder to point of buttocks and from withers to ground. He is a dog of considerable substance, which is determined by spring of rib, strong muscle, and heavy bone.

*The Newfoundland must have symmetry and balance, so that no part appears exaggerated nor out of proportion with the other parts. The dog should impress the eye with substance, strength, and agility, and should not appear leggy, weedy, or shelly in body.*

*Large size is desirable, but never at the expense of temperament, type, structure, soundness and correct movement. Size is determined by height and substance; both are of equal importance. A Newfoundland in correct weight is not a fat, soft dog. Excess weight may appear as substance, so it is necessary to feel for good bone, spring of rib, and firm muscle.*

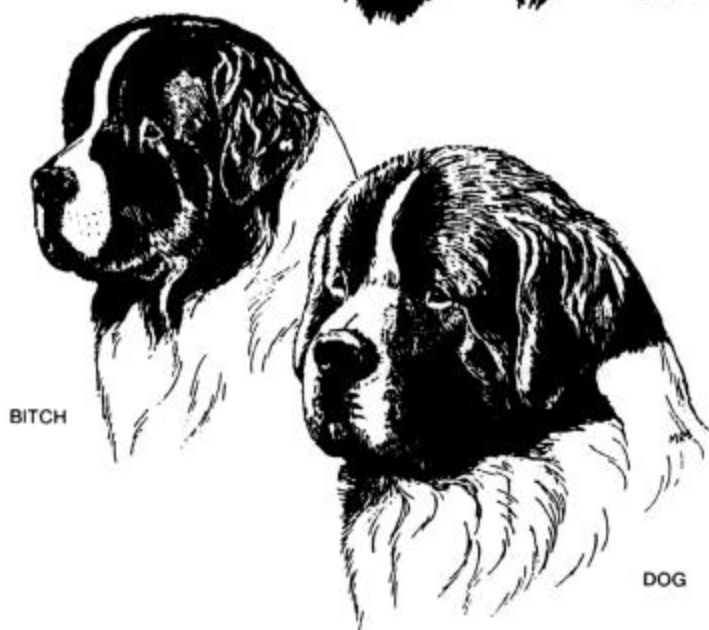
*It is helpful in judging to have an idea of the proportions of an animal. In the Newfoundland, the following proportions are approximately correct. 1. He is slightly longer than he is tall. 2. The skeletal structure measured from the withers to the lowest part of the chest (brisket) should be at least 50% of the dog's total height. However, skin, muscle, and coat make this distance appear proportionally greater so that in profile, it appears to be approximately 55%. 3. The distance from withers to elbow is approximately 50% of the total height and from elbow to ground, about 50%. Variations in these proportions become apparent when the dog moves and appears to be "running downhill."*

## HEAD

The head is massive, with a broad skull, slightly arched crown, and strongly developed occipital bone. Cheeks are well developed. Eyes are dark brown. (Browns and Grays may have lighter eyes and should be penalized only to the extent that color affects expression.) They are relatively small, deep-set, and spaced wide apart. Eyelids fit closely with no inversion. Ears are relatively small and triangular with rounded tips. They are set on the skull level with, or slightly above the brow, and lie close to the head. When the ear is brought forward, it reaches to the inner corner of the eye on the same side. Expression is soft and reflects the characteristics of the breed: benevolence, intelligence, and dignity.

Forehead and face are smooth and free of wrinkles. Slope of the stop is moderate, but because of the well developed brow, it may appear abrupt in profile. The muzzle is clean cut, broad throughout its length, and deep. Depth and length are approximately equal, the length from tip of nose to stop being less than that from stop to occiput. The top of the muzzle is rounded, and the bridge, in profile, is straight or only slightly arched. Teeth meet in a scissors or level bite. Dropped lower incisors, in an otherwise normal bite, are not indicative of a skeletal malocclusion and should be considered only a minor deviation.

# IDEAL HEADS





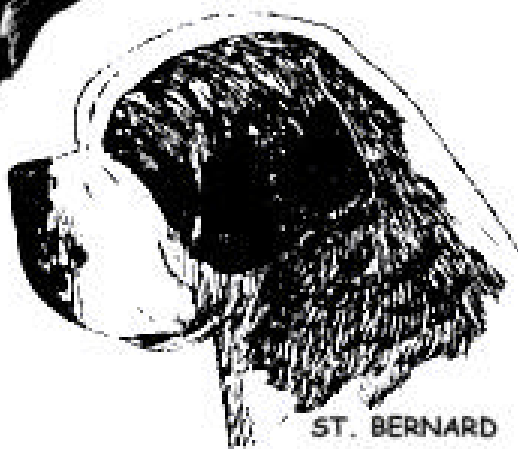
# BREED COMPARISONS



GREAT PYRENEES

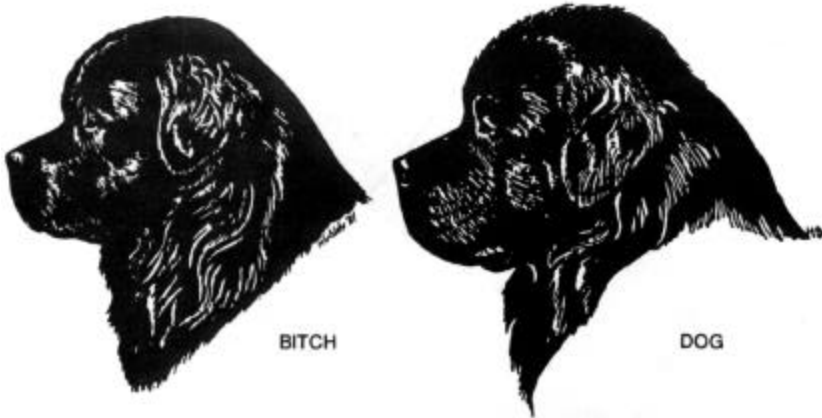


NEWFOUNDLAND



ST. BERNARD

## IDEAL HEADS



*While the slope of the stop seems abrupt due to the plane of the muzzle and brow of the skull, examination with your hand will show the slope of the stop to be moderate, not steep. The parts of the head blend together smoothly. A flat skull, too little stop, flat cheeks, snipiness, or a "houndy look" all contribute to lack of type. Keep in mind that the ideal bitch head follows that of the ideal dog throughout. The bitch's head is slightly smaller in proportion to her size than that of a dog. Lack of breadth of skull or breadth and depth of muzzle are no more acceptable in a bitch than in a dog.*

*Eyes that are prominent, bulgy, set too close together, and/or light colored serve to spoil the soft, sweet Newfoundland expression. The shape of the eyes is a major factor in the desirable sweet expression. Light eyes in browns and grays are not penalized per se, but a poor expression, whether due to eye color, shape, or placement, should be penalized in dogs of any coat color.*

Typical Eye, somewhat triangular in shape with tight fitting lids.



*The eyelids must fit closely to give good protection to the eyes from water and brush. There should be no evidence of irritation, such as tearing. Inversion of the eyelids (entropion) not only causes eye irritation, but often damages the cornea. Loose lower lids (ectropion) expose the haw and fail to offer proper protection to the eyes. A loose haw also detracts from the expression.*

## HEAD FAULTS



A. Overdone. Excess stop, loose flews, excess wrinkle, loose eyes, long ears.



B. Poor head. Lack of stop, pointed shallow muzzle, round, light eyes, high ears.



C. Narrow muzzle, close-set eyes, skull too flat, high ear set.

*When seen from the front or back, the ears of a Newfoundland should blend with the head. Ears set too high or too low, ears that stand away from the head, or long, Spaniel-like ears are incorrect.*

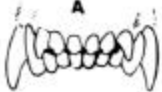
*When alert, a Newf raises and brings his ears forward, but with the forward edges still hugging the face. However, in repose or submission, and often in greeting, ears are held back and lowered. Ear leather is ideally heavy, rather than thin or fine.*

*The muzzle should be in balance with the head of the individual animal, never excessively long, pointed, or snipey. The top of the muzzle is rounded. The Standard calls for a deep and squarish muzzle. Depth of muzzle comes from skeletal structure and a strong underjaw.*

*Level and scissors bites are equally acceptable. There is no suggestion in the Standard that an incorrect bite is more serious than any other fault. However, a dry mouth or a severely overshot or undershot bite contribute to lack of soundness and should be penalized as such. Dropped lower incisors are found in many specimens of the breed and should be considered only a minor deviation*



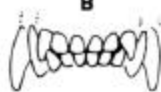
A



Scissors Bite



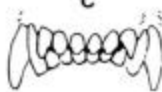
B



Even or Level Bite



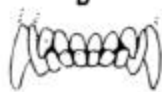
C



Overshot Bite



D



Undershot Bite



E

Misaligned Incisors

# IDEAL DOG



## NECK, TOPLINE, BODY

The neck is strong and well set on the shoulders and is long enough for proud head carriage. The back is strong, broad, and muscular and is level from just behind the withers to the croup. The chest is full and deep with the brisket reaching at least down to the elbows. Ribs are well sprung, with the anterior third of the rib cage tapered to allow elbow clearance. The flank is deep. The croup is broad and slopes slightly.

Tail set follows the natural line of the croup. The tail is broad at the base and strong. It has no kinks, and the distal bone reaches to the hock. When the dog is standing relaxed, its tail hangs straight or with a slight curve at the end. When the dog is in motion or excited, the tail is carried out, but does not curl over the back.

*The neck is muscular and blends into the well laid-back shoulder assembly. The neck of the male is more muscular and thicker than that of the female. A neck too short is generally an indication of poor shoulder placement and puts a Newfoundland out of balance.*

*From the side, the chest should extend at least to the elbow. From the front, the chest appears deep in brisket (lowest part of the forechest). It is heart shaped, which gives room for the elbows to move and lie properly. The palm of the hand, held horizontally, fits easily between the forelegs.*

## IDEAL BITCH



*The prosternum projects beyond the point of shoulder. Rib spring is a factor of substance. Unless the ribs can actually be felt, it is not possible to tell if there is sufficient rib spring, or whether the appearance of substance is due to overweight. The mature dog should be deep in the flank and not excessively tucked up in the belly. The loin must be just long enough to permit suppleness. A dog with too short a loin cannot turn easily without breaking his stride. A dog with too long a loin usually has too much play in the back, thereby losing power of transmission from the hindquarters.*

*A Newfoundland should not be sway-backed, hollow-backed or soft in the back. He should be neither roached nor camel-backed. The natural coat, or grooming, may make a soft or hollow back appear level, or it can make a level back appear roached or high in rear, so the back must be felt to determine its true conformation and musculature. The croup may also be distorted by coat and should be felt to determine its true slope. A flat croup makes for a high tail set. A too sloping croup throws the hindquarters under the dog and tends to destroy the power that should be developed there. Both conditions spoil the general outline of the dog. The croup should never be higher than the withers.*

*In motion the tail is usually carried straight out or slightly above the horizontal.*

## Toplines



Good Topline

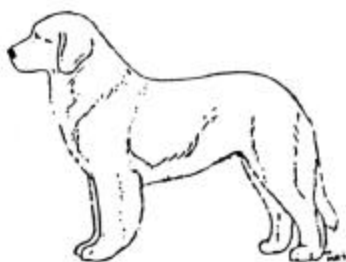


Sway-backed



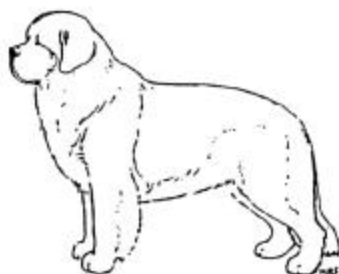
Low in Front

## Faulty Specimens



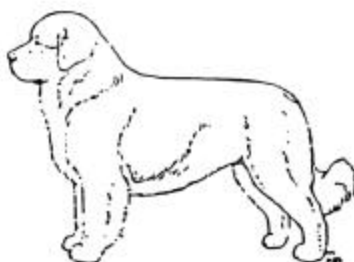
A.

Plain head, large ears. High rear, sholly body, tucked up, steep rump, straight rear angulation, flat feet. Cow hocks.



B.

Poor topline, straight shoulders and upper arm, upright pasterns. Unbalanced.



C.

Short neck, flat croup, long-coupled, tucked-up. Toes in behind.

## FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders are muscular and well laid back. Elbows lie directly below the highest point of the withers. Forelegs are muscular, heavily boned, straight, and parallel to each other, and the elbows point directly to the rear. The distance from elbow to ground equals about half the dog's height. Pasterns are strong and slightly sloping. Feet are proportionate to the body in size, webbed, and cat foot in shape. Dewclaws may be removed.

*Without correct structure of the foreassembly, perfection in all other body structure will suffer in proportion to the failure existing in the front. The shoulder blade should be broad, have hard sinewy muscle, and be firmly placed. The upper arm should be the same length as the shoulder blade and well muscled.. It should lie close to the ribs and should be capable of free movement. With the elbows lying directly below the highest point of the withers, correctly angulated forequarters will place the forelegs well under the body without too much distance between the fore and hind quarters. The better the match in correct angulation between the front and back assembly, the better the dog will move.*

*Turned-out, turned-in, splayed, or hare feet are incorrect. Dewclaws that are always found on the front legs need not be removed.*

*Bone should be in proportion to the size of the dog. A heavy coat can add false visual dimension to bone, so it should be felt for size and comparison. A standard location to assess bone is the forearm, just above the pastern. A Newfoundland should never be faulted for having too much bone.*

## HINDQUARTERS

The rear assembly is powerful, muscular, and heavily boned. Viewed from the rear, the legs are straight and parallel. Viewed from the side, the thighs are broad and fairly long. Stifles and hocks are well bent and the line from hock to ground is perpendicular. Hocks are well let down. Hind feet are similar to the front feet. Dewclaws should be removed.

*Newfoundlands should not be cow-hocked, sickle-hocked, barrel-legged, nor pigeon-toed in the hindquarters. The muscling should be broad and hard.*

*Well bent stifles and hocks provide flexibility. One should be able to see the entire pads of the rear feet of a dog as he moves away.*

*From the perspective of the rear assembly, just as from that of the front assembly, rear and front angulation should be in balance. The well balanced Newfoundland will stand comfortably with his rear legs out from under him, with the hocks perpendicular to the ground.*

## FRONTS

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Good Front



Barrel-Legged  
Out at Elbow, Toeing In



East and West  
Pinched Elbows, Too Narrow

## REARS

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Good Rear



Barrel-Legged



Cowhocks

## TAILS

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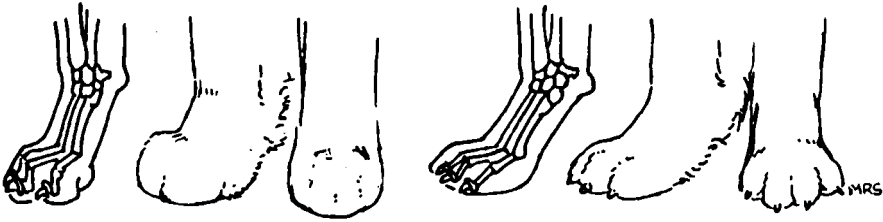


Typical Tail Carriage



Poor Tail Carriage





A. Proper foot: skeletal, side view, front view.

B. Weak foot: skeletal, side view, front view.

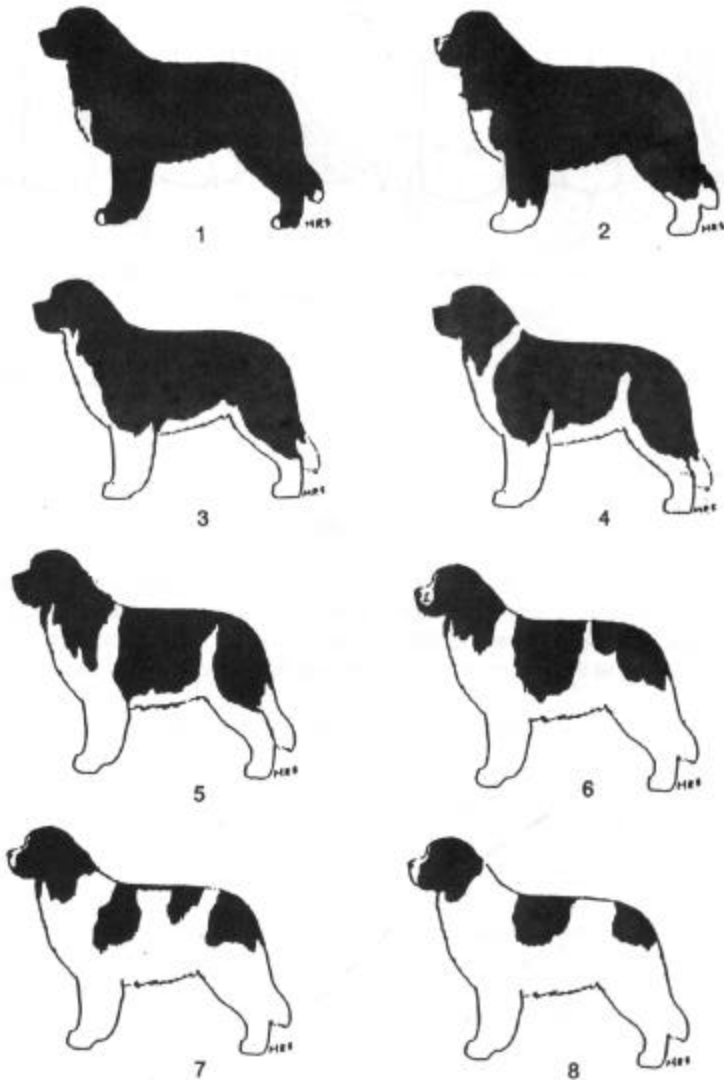
## COAT

The adult Newfoundland has a flat, water-resistant, double coat that tends to fall back into place when rubbed against the nap. The outer coat is coarse, moderately long, and full, either straight or with a wave. The undercoat is soft and dense, although it is often less dense during the summer months or in warmer climates. Hair on the face and muzzle is short and fine. The backs of the legs are feathered all the way down. The tail is covered with long dense hair.

Excess hair may be trimmed for neatness. Whiskers need not be trimmed.

*The Newfoundland's dense, moderately long coat should conduce to its original purpose of protecting the dog from the long, cold winters of his native island and the icy waters surrounding it. The coat is a "closed" rather than an "open" one. (An open coat is one that stands out like a Chow's.) A kinky, curly, silky, or woolly coat is undesirable.*

## COLOR PATTERNS



*Examples of some frequently encountered color patterns, all acceptable on black/white or white/black dogs. Any Newfoundland whose coat color is brown and white or gray and white is to be disqualified if white is, without question, the predominant color, a decision to be determined by the judge.*

## COLOR

Color is secondary to type, structure and soundness.

Recognized Newfoundland colors are black, brown, gray, and white and black.

**Solid Colors-** Blacks, Browns, and Grays may appear as solid colors or solid colors with white at any, some, or all, of the following locations: chin, chest, toes, and tip of tail. Any amount of white found at these locations is typical and is not penalized. Also typical are a tinge of bronze on a black or gray coat and lighter furnishings on a brown or gray coat.

**Landseer-** white base coat with black markings. Typically, the head is solid black, or black with white on the muzzle, with or without a blaze. There is a separate black saddle and black on the rump extending onto a white tail.

Markings, on either solid colors or Landseers, might deviate considerably from those described and should be penalized only to the extent of the deviation. Clear white or white with minimal ticking is preferred.

**Beauty of markings should be considered only when comparing dogs of otherwise comparable quality and never at the expense of type, structure and soundness.**

*All acceptable colors have equal status. The bronze tinge or lighter furnishings on a solid color dog are caused by weathering or bleaching from the sun and should not be faulted. Brown may be any shade from dark chocolate to russet.*

*A rule of thumb for acceptable markings is:*

*Solid Black*

*Black with white or white with black*

*Solid brown or gray. If white is present, it may not be so extensive that either brown or gray cannot be identified as the base color.*

*White dogs with black markings are described in the Standard as "Landseers" in honor of Sir Edwin Landseer, the 19<sup>th</sup> Century artist who featured white and black Newfoundlands in numerous paintings.*

*It is necessary to know the ideal patterns for solid colored and white with black Newfoundlands when comparing dogs of otherwise equal quality. On a solid colored dog, white which extends onto the feet or up the leg or on the face should be considered a minor deviation. White and black Newfoundlands have a piebald color pattern limited to white as the base color, and black area markings. These markings should be separated by clearly defined white areas of background color. While some minor ticking may or may not be present, excess ticking detracts from the contrast of the white and black coat.*

*Markings may deviate considerably from those described, including asymmetrical markings on either solid colored or white with black dogs. Markings may extend well beyond the areas described. Since predictability of markings is genetically unreliable, beauty of marking should be considered only when comparing marked dogs of equal quality.*

## DISQUALIFICATIONS

**Any colors or combinations of colors not specifically described are disqualified.**

*Note that there is no mention of markings. With respect to disqualification, markings are considered only when they are the **wrong color**.*

*White is not listed as an acceptable solid color, so white dogs with no black markings would be disqualified. A black and white or a white and black dog may have markings so deviant from the described patterns that it is difficult to tell whether it is a black or a white and black. Such a dog may be shown in either the black or AOAC class and would not be disqualified, since either black with white or white with black is an acceptable combination. However, with other marked solid colors, either brown or gray must be identifiable as the base color to avoid disqualification, since the Standard describes white dogs as having black markings only.*

*Examples of other disqualifying colors include, but are not limited to: any non-solid base color (or markings) such as merle, roan, or brindle, and black, brown, or gray base coat with markings other than white. Beige, tan, honey, buff, blond, or any pale shade of brown must be disqualified.*

## GAIT

**The Newfoundland in motion has good reach, strong drive, and gives the impression of effortless power. His gait is smooth and rhythmic, covering the maximum amount of ground with the minimum number of steps. Forelegs and hind legs travel straight forward. As the dog's speed increases, the legs tend toward single tracking. When moving, a slight roll of the skin is characteristic of the breed. Essential to good movement is the balance of correct front and rear assemblies.**

*Strength and coordination are valued over speed. A Newfoundland is properly shown at a moderate trot. The correct level topline of the dog must not be lost in motion. Soundness is an essential ingredient of type, for without well-coordinated movement, the Newf could not accomplish its purpose. Movement is the crucial test of conformation. There is probably no other point at which so many dogs fail.*

*It is important to distinguish good ground covering drive from an exaggerated rear action with considerable lift and flexing of the stifle, which lacks actual ground covering forward motion.*

*Dogs with otherwise good forequarters but who toe in slightly, should be distinguished from dogs with faulty construction who may also cross over with the forefeet, or who are out at the elbow.*



## TEMPERAMENT

**Sweetness of temperament is the hallmark of the Newfoundland; this is the most important single characteristic of the breed.**

*The Newfoundland is typically friendly. Since sweetness of temperament is the most important single characteristic of the breed, shyness, fearfulness, and suspicion are unacceptable traits and should be penalized severely. Chapter 14, Section 8-a of the AKC rules provides for excusal or disqualification for dogs which menace or attack humans. Furthermore, it is not acceptable for a Newfoundland to menace or attack other dogs and any Newfoundland doing so should also be severely penalized.*

## DISQUALIFICATIONS

**Any colors or combinations of colors not specifically described are disqualified.**

# GROOMING

There are basic hints that are suggested to make this dog more attractive and enhance his appearance. A Newfoundland should be clean and totally mat free. Remove all dead hair and loose coat with a brush and comb before bathing and trimming. Tidy up excess unruly hair that detracts from the dog. Excessive trimming is not encouraged. Do not create an “open coat” by back brushing, teasing, spraying and moussing.

Trim long hair along the edges of the ears and thin or trim long hair on and under the ears using straight edge scissors or thinning shears. Vibrissae (whiskers) need not be trimmed.

Trim feet for neatness following the outline of the foot. Trim the hair on the bottom of the foot even with the foot pad. Keep toenails short.

# NOTES

Any deviation from the Standard is a fault. The degree to which the fault represents deviation is a matter of judgment, experience, and opinion.

Remember, in judging a Newfoundland, it is not enough to just watch it standing and in motion. It is necessary to put your hands on the dog to feel skull, size of bone, angulation and location of joints, true topline, quality of coat, length of tail, etc.

Sweetness of temperament is the most important single characteristic of the breed. Any sign of poor temperament cannot be tolerated in the Newfoundland.

Thanks to  
Barbara Bottaro, Ernest Hart, and Marcia Schlehr,  
for their art work

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