

# **The Illustrated Guide for the Newfoundland Dog in Canada**



*Approved by The Newfoundland Dog Club of Canada Inc.  
February 2020*

**The Newfoundland Dog Club of Canada (NDCC)**

**The Canadian Standard of the Newfoundland – Boxed Bold Type**

*NDCC Interpretive Guidelines -- Italics Type*

***Judging The Newfoundland***

*To be a competent judge, one must not only know the Standard, but must also have a clear mental picture of the ideal Newfoundland. The Standard can be likened to a law to be enforced by breeders and judges.*

*The first impression one should get upon meeting a Newfoundland is that of a very large, friendly, gentle but strong, athletic dog. That which contributes to the dog fulfilling its purpose is a virtue; that which interferes with the dog doing its job is a fault, although absence of faults is no guarantee of quality. Correct type, soundness, temperament, expression and style in balance, equal quality.*

*Type is that which makes a breed itself and not something else. True type, because it is functional, is balanced with no part exaggerated.*

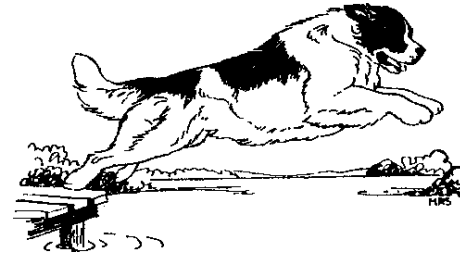
*Soundness allows for the performance of function. Soundness includes correctness in temperament and conformation as well as in movement.*

*Sweetness of temperament is the hallmark of the Newfoundland. Without this most important characteristic, there can be no Newfoundland. The Newfoundland's temperament is reflected in his soft, dignified and intelligent expression.*

*Style is a manner of conduct or action, elegance, something that draws the eye. It doesn't change type, but adds to it, like icing on a cake.*

*Good animals of a breed need to be of a like type, but there is still room for variations within that correct type. **Do not discriminate against the better dog because he is slightly different.***

*It is important for breeders and judges to accept the responsibility of preserving the integrity of the Newfoundland's original purpose as a working, multi-purpose dog with natural life-saving instincts, and to protect it from influences that would lessen its ability to perform that purpose.*



## ***The Illustrated Guide for the Newfoundland Dog***

### ***Purpose***

*The purpose of this guide is to help judges, breeders and lay people better understand the Canadian 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. Judges should do their best to place the winning dog based upon what they have learned from studying our Standard, rather than on personal likes or dislikes. Breeders play an important role, as it is their job to breed those Newfoundlands which adhere to our Standard, and then present them to the judges to be evaluated. In this manner, the best dogs are coveted for breeding, and so perpetuate those Newfoundland traits that adhere to our Standard.*

*The Newfoundland is a swimmer, hauler and gentle companion. This is a kind, intelligent dog. 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 the 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; possessing natural life-saving instincts; a multi-purpose dog capable of heavy work as well as a devoted companion for adult and child.*

# **The Standard for Newfoundlands In Canada**

## **Origin and Purpose**

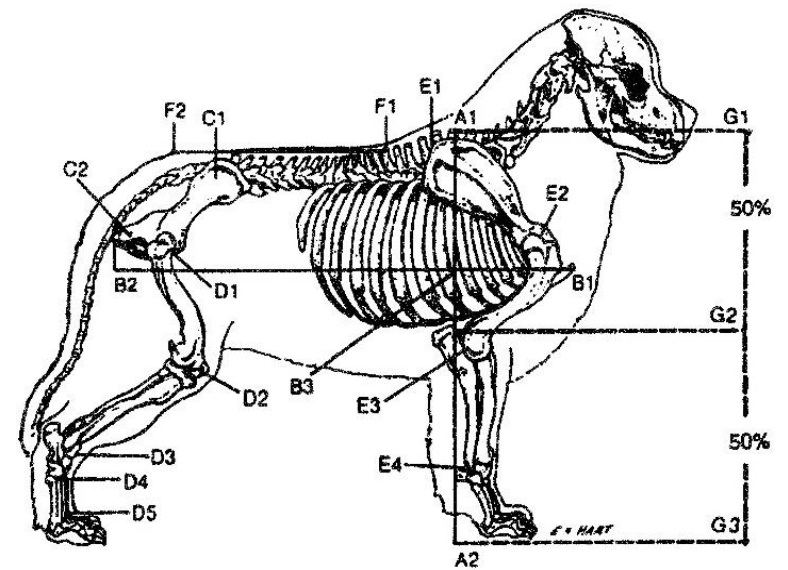
The breed originated in Newfoundland from dogs indigenous to the island, and the big black bear dogs introduced by the Vikings in 1001 A.D. With the advent of European fishermen, a variety of new breeds helped to shape and re-invigorate the breed, but the essential characteristics of the Newfoundland dog remained. By the time colonization was permitted in 1610, the distinct physical characteristics and mental attributes had been established in the breed for all time. The large size, heavy coat and webbed feet permit him to withstand the rigours of the extreme climate and sea while serving both as lifeguard and draught animal.

## **General Appearance**

The Newfoundland is massive, deep bodied, well-muscled and co-ordinated, projecting dignity in stance and head carriage. The length from the foremost point of the shoulder to the point of the buttocks minimally exceeds the height of the dog from ground to withers, resulting in a visually square appearance. The body of the bitch may be slightly longer, and is less massive than that of the dog. A mature dog should never appear leggy or lacking substance. The Newfoundland is free moving with a slight roll perceptible. Substantial webbing of the toes is always present. Large size is desirable but never at the expense of gait, symmetry and balance. Fine bone is to be faulted.

*The Standard was written for a working dog that 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 they are well known for their water rescue work, the Newfoundland also pulls carts, sleds and carries packs. Newfoundlands have achieved much success as tracking dogs and in scent detection. Due to their intelligence and natural life-saving abilities, they also excel in Search and Rescue work. The Newfoundland's outstanding character traits are a benevolent disposition and strong life-saving instincts. Strength and soundness in body and mind, in order to translate the dog's historical work into effective action, require the musculature, co-ordination and ability to swim and/or haul long distances.*

## 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 through 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%)

The length from the foremost point of the shoulders to the point of the buttocks, minimally exceeds the height of the dog from ground to withers, resulting in a visually square appearance.

## **Temperament**

**The Newfoundland's expression is soft and reflects the character of the breed - benevolent, intelligent, dignified but capable of fun. He is known for his sterling gentleness and serenity. Any show of ill temper or timidity is to be severely faulted. Bad temperament is a disqualification.**

*The single most important, indispensable and revered characteristic of the Newfoundland is sweetness of temperament. This is the hallmark of the Newfoundland. Everything about this dog conveys the feeling of trust, kindness and friendliness. This is a highly intelligent dog which is willing to please. The Newfoundland typically has a pleasant expression. 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. It is not acceptable for a Newfoundland to menace or attack other dogs, and any Newfoundland doing so should also be severely penalized.*

## **Size**

**The average height for adult dogs is 28 in. (71 cm), for adult bitches, 26 in. (66 cm). The average weight for adult dogs is 150 lb. (68 kg), for adult bitches, 120 lb. (54 kg). Large size is desirable but is not to be favoured over correct gait, symmetry, soundness and structure.**

*The Newfoundland must have symmetry and balance, so that no part appears exaggerated or 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 type, structure, soundness and correct movement. Size is determined by height and substance; both are of equal importance. Average heights/weights offered in the Standard are meant to serve as reference points; the averages stated should not impose limitations on those Newfoundlands which are larger than the average dog, provided its size does not compromise gait, balance, symmetry or soundness.*

*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.*

## **Coat and Colour**

The Newfoundland has a water resistant double coat. The outer coat is moderately long and straight with no curl. A slight wave is permissible. When rubbed the wrong way, the coat tends to fall back into place. The undercoat is soft and dense, but less dense during summer months, but always found to some extent on the rump and chest. A completely open coat is to be faulted. The hair on the head, muzzle, and ears is short and fine. The front and rear legs are feathered. The tail is completely covered with long dense hair, but does not form a flag. A short, flat, smooth coat (Labrador Retriever type) is a disqualification. The traditional colour is black. A sunburned black is permissible. White markings on chest, toes and/or tip of tail are permissible. Markings of any colour other than white are most objectionable and the dog is to be disqualified. The Landseer Newfoundland is white with black markings, and is of historical significance to the breed. The preferred pattern of markings for the Landseer is black head with white blaze extending onto the muzzle, black saddle and black rump and upper tail. All remaining parts are to be white with a minimum of ticking. The symmetry of markings and beauty of pattern characterize the best marked Landseers. Landseers are to be shown in the same classes as blacks unless special classes are provided for them.

### ***Coat:***

*The double coat of a Newfoundland supports its original function as a working dog both in water and on land. Emphasis should be on density of coat rather than length, since its original purpose was to protect the dog from the cold winters and icy waters of its native island. A kinky, curly, silky, or woolly coat is undesirable. The coat is a "closed" coat, rather than an "open" coat. (An open coat being one that stands out like a Chow's)*

*The outer layer of coarse, oily guard hairs provides insulation and sheds water. When rubbed the wrong way, it should fall back into place and lay naturally, and should be of sufficient length to cover the undercoat.*

*The undercoat is soft and dense, and serves to protect the dog from the cold and keep water away from the skin. The amount of undercoat will depend on the season.*

*Puppy coat can vary in texture and colour intensity. A young puppy will have a soft, dense, woolly coat over the entire body, which may not fall back into place if rubbed the wrong way. As the puppy matures, the coat will transition and it's not unusual to find a mix of puppy and adult coat on older puppies.*

## Colour

Acceptable colours have equal status. The only difference between black and Landseer is colour. A bronze tinge and/or lighter furnishings are caused by weathering or bleaching from the sun and should not be faulted.

A quick guideline for acceptable colour and markings:

Solid Black

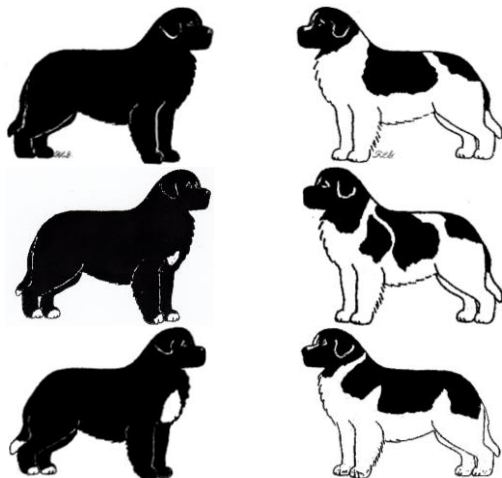
Black with white on chest, toes, and/or tip of tail

Landseer (White with black markings)

White dogs with black markings are described as "Landseer" in honour of Sir Edwin Landseer, the 19th century artist who featured white with black Newfoundlands in numerous paintings.

It is necessary to know where white is permissible on a black dog, and where black is preferred on a Landseer when comparing dogs of otherwise equal quality. Landseer Newfoundlands have a white base coat with black markings. The ideal would have a black head with a white blaze, black saddle, and black rump extending onto the upper tail. The black markings should be separated by clearly defined areas of the white background, and preference would be for the dog to be approximately 60% white. While some minor ticking may or may not be present, excess ticking detracts from the contrast of the white with black coat.

Markings which extend well beyond the areas described in the Standard are not preferred, but it is not unusual for a Landseer to have markings that vary somewhat from the Standard description. Because predictability of markings is genetically unreliable, judges are to note that beauty of markings and/or preferred markings must never take precedence over the best Newfoundland according to the Standard. Markings should only be taken into consideration when comparing dogs of equal quality and compliance with the Standard.



Examples of some frequently encountered patterns



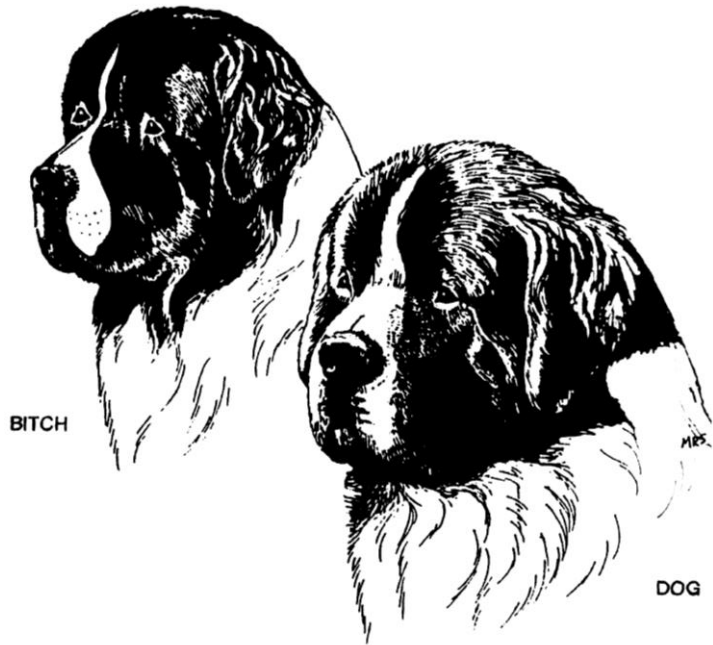
## Head

The head is massive with a broad **skull**, slightly arched crown and strongly developed occipital bone. The forehead and face are smooth and free from wrinkles. The stop is not abrupt. The **muzzle** is clean-cut and covered with short fine hair. It is rather square, deep and moderately short. The nostrils are well developed. The bitch's head follows the same general conformation, but is feminine and less massive. A narrow head, snipey or long muzzle is to be faulted. Pronounced flews are not desirable. The **eyes** are dark brown, relatively small and deep set. They are spaced wide apart and show no haw. Round, protruding or yellow eyes are objectionable. The **ears** are relatively small and triangular with rounded tips. They are set well back on the side of the head and lie close. When the ear of the adult dog is brought forward, it reaches the inner corner of the eye on the same side. The teeth meet in a scissors or level bite.

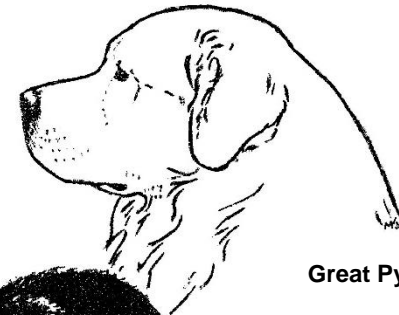
**Skull:** Examination of the skull with one's hands will confirm that the slope of the stop is moderate and not abrupt. The strongly developed occipital bone is the highest and rearmost back of skull and should be readily palpable. The parts of the head should blend together smoothly. A flat skull, too little stop, long or flat cheeks, a snipey muzzle or a "houndy look" all contribute to lack of type. Keep in mind that the bitch's head is slightly smaller in proportion to her size than that of the dog. Lack of breadth of skull or breadth and depth of muzzle are no more acceptable in the bitch than in the dog.

**Eyes:** The expression in the eyes is soft, and reflects the characteristics of the breed--benevolence, intelligence and dignity. It is important that the eyes be surrounded by closely fitting rims for protection 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. An exposed haw detracts from the expression and is to be faulted. Eyes that are prominent, bulgy, set too close together, and/or are light coloured, serve to spoil the soft, sweet Newfoundland expression. The shape of the eyes is a major factor in the desirable sweet expression. A poor expression, whether due to eye colour, shape or placement, should be penalized in dogs of either coat colour. On occasion, you may see a lack of pigment in the third eyelid (nictitating membrane) in one or both eyes. This is more common in the white and black variety and not to be faulted.

# Ideal Heads



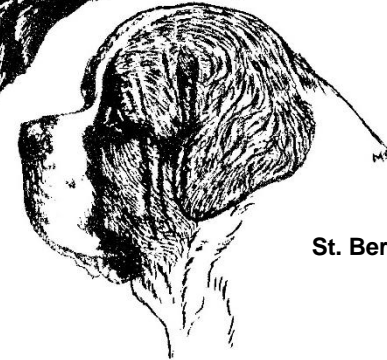
## Breed Comparisons



Great Pyrenees



Newfoundland

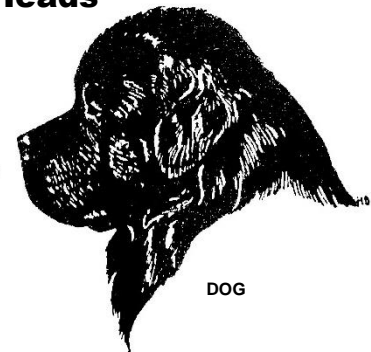


St. Bernard

## Ideal Heads



BITCH



DOG

**Ears:** *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 Newfoundland raises and brings his ears forward. In repose or submission, and often in greeting, ears are held back and lowered. Ear leather is thick rather than thin or fine. It is normal for a puppy to have ears that are proportionately longer than the ideal, as the ears tend to grow faster than the skull.*



**Muzzle:** *The muzzle should be in balance with the head of the individual dog, never excessively long, pointed or snipey, with the length from stop to tip of nose being less than from stop to occiput, the ratio being 5 to 7. The muzzle is rather square and deep, with the top appearing rounded when viewed from the front, and straight with no downward or upward slope when viewed from the side. Depth of the muzzle comes from skeletal structure and a strong underjaw. Pendulous or pronounced flews (which are a fault), or long cheeks can make the muzzle appear deeper than it is, therefore actual muzzle depth should be confirmed. The Standard does not call for removal of vibrissae (whiskers).*

**Teeth:** *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 wry 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.*

**The Eye** is dark brown with a close fitting lid and a sweet expression. It is relatively small, and typically somewhat triangular in shape.



**Incorrect:**  
Ear set too high



**Incorrect:**  
Muzzle too narrow,  
ear set too high



**Incorrect:**  
Overdone, excess stop,  
droopy eyes, loose flews,  
large ears



**Incorrect:**  
Weak pointed muzzle,  
large, round eyes,  
ear set too high

**TEETH**



**A-Scissors**  
-Correct



**B-Level/Even**  
-Correct



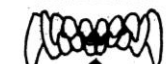
**C-Dropped Lower Incisors**  
-Mild Deviation



**D-Overshot-Fault**  
-Top Overlaps Lower



**E-Undershot-Fault**  
-Lower Jaw Juts Out



**F-Wry Mouth-Fault**  
-Incorrect Jaw / Tooth Line

## Neck

The neck is strong, muscular, and well set on the shoulders. It is long enough to permit dignified head carriage, and should not show surplus dewlap.

*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.*

## Forequarters

When the dog is not in motion, the forelegs are straight and parallel, with the elbows close to the chest. The shoulders are well muscled and well laid back at an angle approaching 45 degrees. The pasterns are slightly sloping. Down in the pasterns is to be faulted. The feet are proportionate to the body in size, well rounded and tight, with firm compact toes (cat-foot type). Splayed toes are a fault. Toeing in or out is undesirable.

*Without correct structure of the fore assembly, 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 which are always found on the front legs need not be removed. Substantial webbing of the toes is always present.*

*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 not be faulted for having too much bone.*



East and West  
Pinched Elbows  
Too Narrow



Good Front



Barrel Legged  
Out at Elbow  
Toeing In

## **Body**

The Newfoundland's chest is broad, full and deep, with the brisket reaching to the elbows. The distance from elbow to ground equals half the dog's height. The back is broad, with good spread of rib, and the topline is level from the withers to croup, never roached, slack or swayed. The loins are strong and well muscled, and the croup is broad. The pelvis slopes at an angle of about 30 degrees. Viewed from the side, the body is deep, showing no discernible tuck-up. Bone structure is massive throughout but does not give a sluggish appearance.

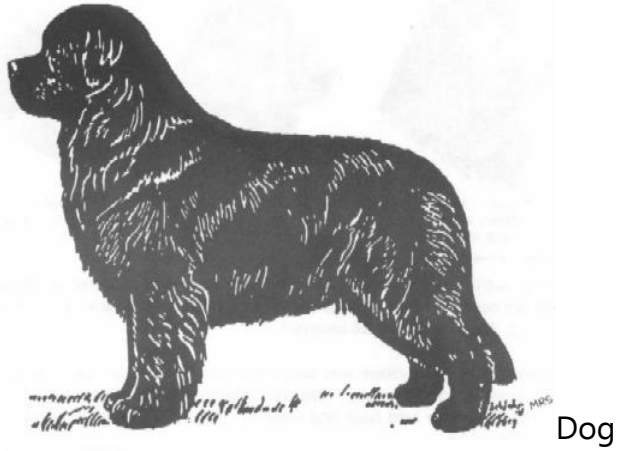
*From the side, the chest should extend to at least the elbow. From the front, the chest appears deep in brisket (lowest part of the fore chest). It is heart shaped, which gives room for the elbows to move and lie properly. The palm of the hand, held horizontally, fits easily between the forelegs.*

*The prosternum projects beyond the point of the 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 excess weight. The mature dog should be deep in flank and not excessively tucked up in belly. The loin must be just long enough to permit suppleness. A dog with too short a loin cannot turn easily without breaking its stride. A dog with too long a loin usually has too much play in its back, thereby losing power of transmission from the hindquarters. It is key that the appearance of the dog be square, with length of body only minimally exceeding height at the withers.*

**The topline is level.** A Newfoundland should not be sway backed, hollow backed or soft in the back. It should be neither roached nor camel backed. The natural coat and/or grooming may make a soft or hollow back appear level, or it may make a level back appear roached or high in the rear. Therefore, 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 the mature dog.

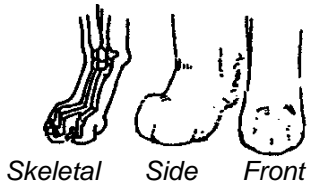


**IDEAL BODY TYPES**

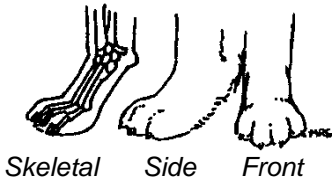


**FEET**

**Proper Foot:**



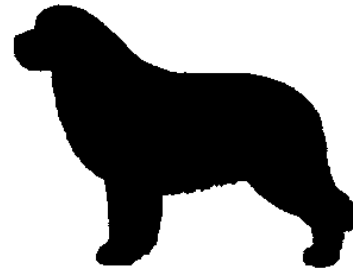
**Weak Foot:**



**Faults: Lack of webbing between toes; splayed feet**



## ***Toplines***



***Good Topline***

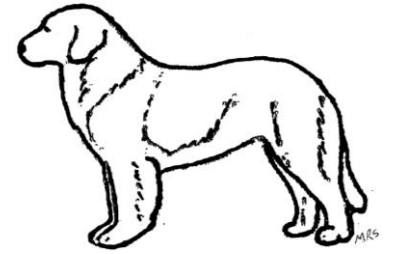


*Sway-backed*

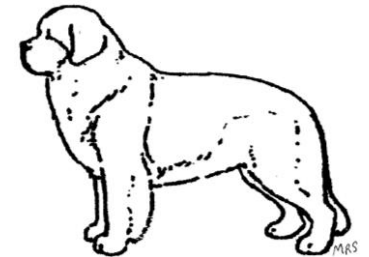


*Low in front*

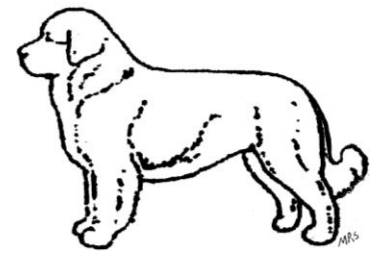
## ***Faulty Specimens***



*Narrow head, snipey muzzle.  
Large ears. High rear. Shelly body.  
Tucked up. Steep croup.  
Straight rear angulation.  
Flat feet. Cow hocks.*



*Roached topline.  
Straight shoulders.  
Upright pasterns.  
Unbalanced.*



*Short neck. Flat croup.  
Long coupled.  
Tucked-up.  
Toes-in behind.  
Tail with a curled end.*

## **Hindquarters**

Because driving power for swimming, pulling loads or covering ground efficiently is largely dependent upon the hindquarters, the rear structure of the Newfoundland is of prime importance. The hip assembly is broad, strong and well developed. The upper thighs are wide and muscular. The lower thighs are strong and fairly long. The stifles are well bent, but not so as to give a crouching appearance. The hocks are well let down, well apart and parallel to each other. They turn neither in nor out. The feet are firm and tight. Dewclaws, if present, should have been removed. Straight stifles, cowhocks, barrel legs, and pigeon toes are to be faulted.

*Although the Standard suggests that hind dewclaws should be removed, modern day legislation now disallows this practice in many jurisdictions; therefore hind dewclaws, if present, should not be faulted.*

*The Newfoundland should not be cow hocked, sickle hocked, barrel legged nor pigeon toed in the hindquarters. The muscling should be broad and hard. One should be able to see the entire pads of the rear feet of a dog as it moves away.*

*Well bent stifles and hocks provide flexibility. One is reminded that this is meant to be a moderately structured dog; the stifle should not be overdone.*

*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 its rear legs slightly out from under it, with the hocks perpendicular to the ground.*



Cow hocked

**Good Rear**

Barrel Legged

## **Tail**

The tail acts as a rudder when the Newfoundland is swimming; therefore it is strong and broad at the base. When the dog is standing the tail hangs straight down, possibly a little curved at the tip, reaching to or slightly below the hocks; when the dog is in motion or excited, the tail is carried straight out or with slight upward curve but never curled over the back nor curved inward between the legs. A tail with a kink or curled at the end is very objectionable.

*The tail is an extension of the spine. The tail-set should be neither too high nor too low, and is an indicator of whether the pelvis has the required slope. A high tail-set is indicative of a flat pelvis and croup. A low tail-set suggests a steeper slope than desired. One should feel the tail firmly from its broad base and along its entire length to ensure faults are not hidden by the abundant coat of the tail. The last vertebra should reach to, or slightly below the hocks. A tail with a kink is a fault.*



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



*The tail is **never** curled over the back*

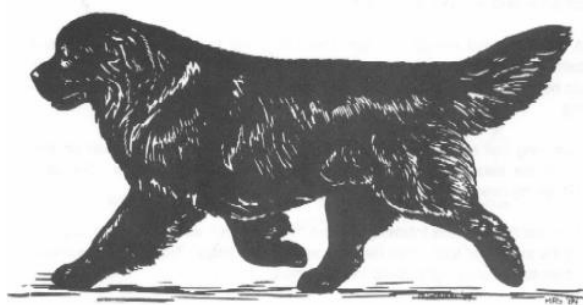
## **Gait**

**The Newfoundland has good reach and strong drive, giving the impression of effortless power. In motion, the legs move straight forward, parallel to the line of travel. A slight roll is present. As the speed increases, the dog tends to single track, with the topline remaining level. Mincing, shuffling, crabbing, too close moving, weaving, crossing over in front, toeing out or toeing-in in front, hackney action and pacing are all faults.**

*Strength and co-ordination are valued over speed. A Newfoundland is properly shown at a moderate trot. The gait is smooth and rhythmic, covering the maximum amount of ground with the minimum number of steps. Essential to good movement is the balance of correct front and rear assemblies.*

*The correct level topline of the dog must not be lost in motion. Soundness is an essential ingredient of type, for without well co-ordinated movement, the Newfoundland could not accomplish its purpose. Movement is the crucial test of conformation. There is no other point at which so many dogs will 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. When the dog is in motion, at greatest extension of the foreleg, the paw should hit the ground under the nose of the dog; the rear legs, when in forward motion should not overtake the front legs as they reach their most pushing extended position.*



**The Newfoundland is shown at a moderate trot**

**A slight roll may be present in the slower trotting dog, and must not be confused with a pacing gait, which is a fault.**

## **Faults**

Legginess, narrow head, snipey or long muzzle, pronounced flews, short tail, long tail, tail with a kink, tail with curled end, fine bone, any show of ill temper or timidity, open coat, eyes showing pronounced haw, round, protruding or yellow eyes, splayed feet, down pasterns, mincing, shuffling, crabbing, weaving, crossing over in front, toeing out or toeing-in in front, hackney action or pacing, straight stifles, cowhocks, barrel legs, roached, slack or sway back, lack of webbing between toes, overshot or undershot or wry mouth, white markings on a black dog found on any location other than chest, toes and/or tip of tail. Faults are to be penalized to the extent of the deviation.

## **Disqualifications**

Bad temperament, short flat-coat (Labrador Retriever type), markings of any other colour than white on a black dog, any colours other than the traditional black or Landseer (white and black).

## ***Grooming***

*The adult Newfoundland has a flat, water resistant, double coat which tends to fall back into place when rubbed the wrong way. The Newfoundland may be meticulously groomed but not at the expense of its natural appearance. Professional adjudication is subjective and it is inevitable that, that which constitutes excessive coat trimming will always be a judgement call, based upon each individual's perception of that which is appropriate. Although the Breed Standard neither requires nor disallows trimming, **excessive trimming is NOT encouraged**, and judges must evaluate that which best suits their mental image of the ideal Newfoundland. The thorough hands on examination of the dog must support the visual impression.*

*To quote the sage comments of the late Mr. and Mrs. Major B. Godsol, noted Newfoundland breeders and all breed judges:*

*"We put much emphasis on condition and handling in the show ring 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 skilful handling cannot change a mediocre dog into a top one, nor are beauty treatments transmitted."*

*An "open coat" caused by back brushing, teasing, spraying and moussing **is objectionable**. Vibrissae, (whiskers) need not be trimmed.*

## ***Notes***

*Any deviation from the Standard is a fault. The decision regarding the degree to which the fault represents a deviation should be based upon the judgement, experience and expertise of the judge.*

*Remember, in judging a Newfoundland, it is not enough to only watch it standing and in motion. It is necessary to put one's hands on the dog to feel skull, size of bone, angulation and location of joints, true topline, quality of coat, length of tail and to ensure there is substantial webbing between the toes.*

*Sweetness of temperament is the hallmark of the Newfoundland and is the single most important and revered characteristic of the breed. Any sign of poor temperament must not be tolerated.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Front Cover: Typical Male, Black**  
**Back Cover: Typical Female, Landseer**



**THE NEWFOUNDLAND DOG CLUB  
OF CANADA INC.**

*This booklet was compiled by the Illustrated Guide committee of  
The Newfoundland Dog Club of Canada Inc.*

*First Edition: January 2003  
Second Edition: October 2012  
Third Edition: February 2020*

*The Newfoundland Dog Club of Canada thanks the Newfoundland  
Club of America, for its permission (Dec.11,2019) to use portions of its  
Illustrated Guide and to adapt it, in order to comply with the Canadian  
Newfoundland Dog Standard.*

*Thanks to Hedd and Del Richards, for permission to reproduce line  
artwork by Viv Rainsbury, from their book, "Newfoundlands Today".*

*Thank you to Photographers:  
Front Cover: Rob Gerity  
Back Cover: Kohler*

*This publication is the sole property of  
The Newfoundland Dog Club of Canada Inc.  
It may be downloaded for personal and/or educational purposes only.  
Commercial reproduction is prohibited.*

# NDCC Illustrated Guide



THE NEWFOUNDLAND DOG CLUB  
OF CANADA