



# PAW PRINT

Newfoundland Club of Florida

[www.NEWFFLA.com](http://www.NEWFFLA.com)

## President's Report

Well, the time has come for me to say "À bientôt," – See you soon. The last five years have flown by so fast. We have made many strides on both the club and rescue side of the house, of which we can all be proud.

### Club

- We have automated our membership process so that new members and membership renewals can be completed online. This has saved us time and money. We no longer need to pay the high postage or printing fees for membership renewals, and our membership chair can download a simple report to confirm who has applied/re-applied.
- All of the paper files, that have been traveling from one president to the next, are now digitized, and a shared drive was created to maintain ongoing files.
- The working dog program has gained momentum with our new chairs, Jennifer Arent and Taylor Vinge. Their enthusiasm has attracted more people to learn about draft in anticipation of testing next year. Also, more people have expressed an interest in learning more about water work, scent, obedience, and rally. Training videos are being made, and seminars are being scheduled.
- Our community participation has increased under Bruce Meligan's direction. We have added events such as the Brooksville Pumpkin Patch in the fall and Martini and Mutts when we can get a time slot. More members from around the state are beginning to organize local meet-and-greets like the recent one in Orlando.

It took many members to bring these positive changes to life. Jennifer Arent is committed to listening to what members seek from our club and will work hard to continue the progress.

Rescue saw the most significant change in the past five years.

- After many years of contemplation and discussion, the rescue became a 501(c)3 charitable organization, now

known as the Newfoundland Rescue of Florida, LLC. This change has already seen an increase in donations and events in which we can now participate.

- The rescue now has new software to process foster and adoption applications. This software is self-contained so that everyone on the rescue team can access an applicant's or dog's most current records. The rescue team is a well-oiled machine when processing applications and matching the dog to the right applicant.
- All previous adoption folders have been digitized and available to our rescue team through a shared drive
- The parade packet and registration are now online, saving us money on postage and printing while allowing us to more accurately track who is coming and how the finances are broken down for more accurate accounting for tax purposes.

Sandy Miller has already begun talking to members about how they can help the rescue achieve some of its lofty fundraising goals. If you wish to help the rescue in some capacity, reach out to Sandy.

I started this section by saying, "See you soon," because although I'm moving overseas, I will still be involved in both organizations as Past President. I will be handling some behind-the-scenes work related to forms and the newsletter in the near future, so don't be surprised if you get an email from me from the parade or editor's email address.

Clint and I want to thank you for embracing us over the years. Raven and Buddha also give a big tail wag to all the friends they have met over the years. This is a new adventure for our family, full of all the possibilities we can imagine. Please give the next Presidents all the love and support you have given me.

À bientôt,

*Terry*

*continued*

## Officers, Directors and Chairpersons of the Newfoundland Club of Florida for 2025-2026

Jennifer Arent	President	<a href="mailto:president@newffla.com">president@newffla.com</a>
Kim Chonko	Vice President	<a href="mailto:vice_president@newffla.com">vice_president@newffla.com</a>
Maureen Bibens	Secretary	<a href="mailto:secretary@newffla.com">secretary@newffla.com</a>
Alan Jones	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@newffla.com">treasurer@newffla.com</a>
Janice Hoffenberg	Director	<a href="mailto:jappbddt@gmail.com">jappbddt@gmail.com</a>
Chuck Giangarra	Director	<a href="mailto:jocmd3@yahoo.com">jocmd3@yahoo.com</a>
Sarah Starr	Membership Chair	<a href="mailto:membership.chair@newffla.com">membership.chair@newffla.com</a>
Bruce Meligan	Community Liaison	<a href="mailto:bruce.mastertrim@gmail.com">bruce.mastertrim@gmail.com</a>
Jennifer Arent and Taylor Vinge	Working Dog Chair	<a href="mailto:jvinge@bellsouth.net">jvinge@bellsouth.net</a> <a href="mailto:Taylorvinge1@gmail.com">Taylorvinge1@gmail.com</a>
Terry Boram	Executive Advisor	<a href="mailto:terry.boram@gmail.com">terry.boram@gmail.com</a>
Terry Boram	Editor	<a href="mailto:editor@newffla.com">editor@newffla.com</a>
	General Information	<a href="mailto:newffla.info@newffla.com">newffla.info@newffla.com</a>

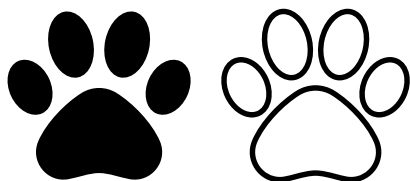
# Membership

Caitlin Teal and Trinity Pattison have requested consideration for membership,

Per our bylaws, they must be posted in a newsletter for 30 days. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact our membership chair at [membership.chair@newffla.com](mailto:membership.chair@newffla.com).

**Membership Renewals went out via email March 12, 2025. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.**

Sarah Starr  
Membership.chair@newffla.com



## Membership Meeting – March 19, 2025 @7:30pm (Zoom Link on next page)

Please join us to welcome the incoming presidents of Newffla and NRF and to hear a presentation from the NCA.

### Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call (establish quorum)
3. NCA presentation – Stacy Roderick, NCA Director
  - a. Come prepared with any questions you would like to ask the NCA
4. Meet Jennifer Arent
5. Meet Sandy Miller
6. Treasurer Report – Alan Jones
7. Membership Report – Sarah Starr
8. Working Dog Report – Jennifer Arent/Taylor Vinge
9. Rescue Report – Laura Feldman
10. Old Business
  - a. Newsletter – tabled from previous meeting
  - b. Zoom – tabled from previous meeting
11. New Business
  - a. SCNC Ad for their Draft
  - b. Parade
    - i. Parade Committee
    - ii. Host Hotel
12. Open Forum
13. Adjournment

# Calendar

## Newffla Board of Director Meeting

Date: March 19, 2025

Time: 7:30 pm

Place: Zoom

Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6407243047>

Call In 301-715-8592 #6407243047#

## Mutts and Martinis Meetup

Date: Sunday May 4, 2025

Time: 9:00 – 11:00 am

Place: 2900 Central Ave

St Pete, FL 33712

Proof of vaccinations required and \$7 entry.

## Annual Newfie and Friends Fort Desoto Beach Days

Date: May 24, 2025

Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Place: Pinellas County Fort Desoto Park

3500 Pinellas Bayway South

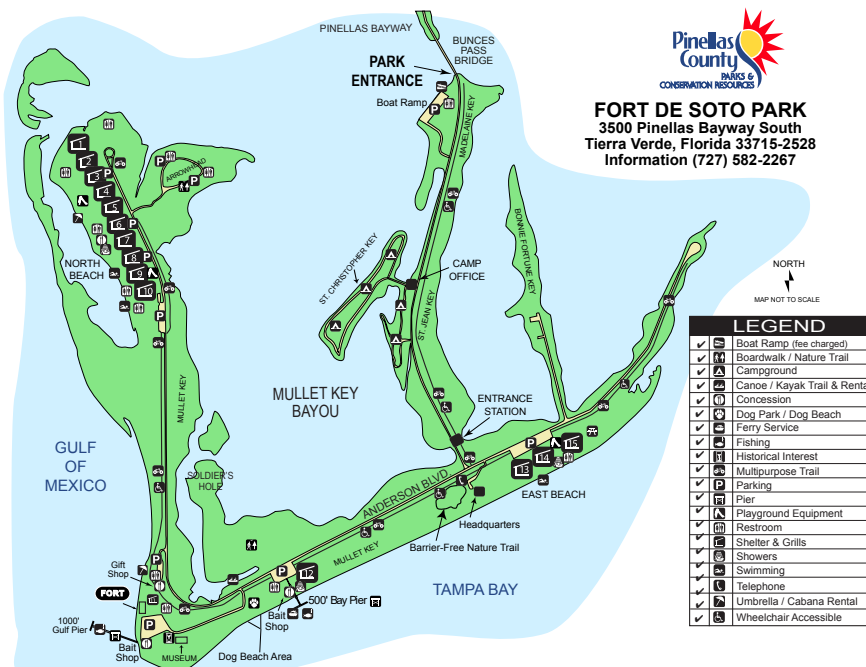
Saint Petersburg, FL 33715

The Newfoundland Club of Florida invites everyone to bring their Newfies (and non-Newfies) for a day of fun and relaxation at Pinellas County's Fort Desoto Park Pet Beach.

Bring: Beach chairs, hats, towels, sunscreen, lunch and drinks for you and your dogs, and something for shade, like a canopy if you have one, but don't worry if you don't because there is always extra shade.

The beach is leash optional. There are fresh water hoses available in the adjacent dog park for rinsing.

There is a \$6 parking fee, free parking for cars bearing handicap plates or placards. Rain date is Sunday, May 25th.







Save the date

Brooksville Pumpkin Patch

Date: October 25th, 2025

Time: TBA

Place: Masaryk Winery

Pic: Pumpkin Patch



## Pictures from Gulfport Gets Rescued, 2/22/25





### Orlando Meetup

Orlando Newfoundlands had their first informal meet-up February 28th at Lake Druid Dog Park. The dogs were joined by their owners as well as former and future Newfoundland owners. There was much romping, playing, and plenty of drool.



## Working Dog Program

### Working Dog Video Coming Soon

Taylor Vinge and I are in the process of creating a video on "Land Activities Prior to Water Training". We are hoping to hold a water seminar in the summer. We are currently looking for a pond or large pool that we could hold the event. If anyone has any ideas, please don't hesitate to contact us.

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The video will teach you land activities that will mimic the junior exercises in a water test. If you are at all interested in water training, start now on the land activities and it will help you immensely once you and your Newfie get in the water.

Along with the Land Training Video, we will add a link to our Newfie, Breezy, when she got her Water Dog Title. This video will help you understand the exercise below.

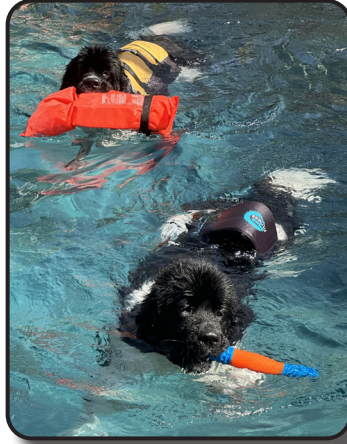
The Junior level water exercises are:

- 1.) Basic Control
- 2.) Single Retrieve
- 3.) Drop Retrieve
- 4.) Take a line
- 5.) Tow a Boat
- 6.) Swim with Handler

Jennifer Arent (229-548-3905)

Taylor Vinge (229-548-0010)

Working Dog Co-Chairs



## Training Your Newfoundland

Hello everyone! I hope you are out and about with your Newfie socializing and enjoying the beautiful Florida weather. Of course, this entails answering the same wonderful Newfie Questions: How much does he/she weigh, how much does he/ she eat, you must live in a big house, who is walking who? Etc. LOL! The only drawbacks to walking your Newfie are all the questions and the picture taking.

Now, let's talk a little about training your Newfie, whether you are just bringing him/her home or if you have an older Newf that is causing problems. I personally think the biggest mistake new Newfie owners make is thinking their normal routine will remain the same other than adding a dog into the mix. When you add a Newfie into your home, your "routine" will and should change to accommodate the dog's needs. Newfoundland dogs grow so quickly over the first year that people have a tendency to forget that they are still a puppy in a huge body. Their size makes them look like an adult, but we have to remember they are not going to behave like an adult. If you are bringing an older Newf into your home, you must remember, they may have never learned the proper way to behave in a home, and it is now up to you to teach them in a loving and positive way.

Many people think it is mean to put their Newf in a crate, but it is the opposite. Crate training can save your Newf from ingesting something that may result in a vet visit, surgery, and a big vet bill. Also, in Florida, with the hurricanes, you never know when you may have to have them crated.

Don't use a crate as a disciplinary tool. Make the crate a safe place. I feed my dogs in their crates and they stay in their crates any time that I leave the house to avoid damage to themselves or to the house. I've heard people say that they are too big for crates, but that is simply not the case. Even Amazon sales 48" crates, and you can also find Great Dane crates that give extra height. The next question is, how do I teach my Newf to go in a crate? Help is only a few key strokes away. There are many trainers that have wonderful training videos on Youtube. Two of my favorites are Nate Schoemer and Susan Garrett. I highly recommend them as your source to at-home training. The more you train your Newf, the happier your home will be. You can simply go to Youtube and then click the search bar. Enter either of these two trainers and put what you need help with, and I promise they will give you great advice in an easy-to-follow video.

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If you have children, please get them involved in the training process. If they are very young, just watching you train your Newf will teach them the value of it, and as they get older, you should include them in the training process. My daughter, Taylor Vinge, was in 3rd grade when we got our first Newf. I got her involved in the teaching process right away. The first lesson was the proper way to approach a Newf and play with a Newf without hurting our dog or herself. Children sometimes think because of their giant size, it is fine to sit on them like a horse, but this is far from the truth. Their back muscles are not strong enough and this could cause damage to the dog, not to mention the child falling and getting hurt. Newfoundland dogs grow and mature up to four years of age.

I have increased my knowledge of training over the last 3-4 years, with the Youtube videos and getting involved in a local dog training facility. I take all kinds of classes and learn different ways to train. I take what I see works for my individual dog and run with it. All three of my Newfs learn and pick up training skills in different manners and at different speeds. I have come to believe baby steps are the way to go. For example, when teaching a dog to “Stay”, start by saying the command and pivoting in front, wait 3 seconds and pivot back to heel position. Say “yes” and treat. If you don’t have a solid “stay”, you should not go any further away than the pivot. As the “stay” becomes solid, take one step away and then pivot. Repeat by only one step until the skill is solid. If you try to go to far away too soon, the dog will not understand and will not stay and you will become frustrated. Baby Steps are so important!

Please know Taylor and I are just a text, call or email away if there is anything we can help you with or answer any questions concerning training.

Jennifer Arent (229-548-3905)  
Taylor Vinge (229-548-0010)  
Working Dog Co-Chairs



*continued*

# Rescue

## Officers and Directors of the Newfoundland Rescue of Florida for 2025-2026

Sandy Miller	President	<a href="mailto:president@newfoundlandrescuefl.org">president@newfoundlandrescuefl.org</a>
Donna Viger	Vice President	<a href="mailto:info@newfoundlandrescuefl.org">info@newfoundlandrescuefl.org</a>
Karen Ellis	Secretary	<a href="mailto:kadellis@hotmail.com">kadellis@hotmail.com</a>
Alan Jones	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@newfoundlandrescuefl.org">treasurer@newfoundlandrescuefl.org</a>
Laura Feldman	Rescue Chair	<a href="mailto:rescue@newfoundlandrescuefl.org">rescue@newfoundlandrescuefl.org</a> <a href="mailto:applications@newfoundlandrescuefl.org">applications@newfoundlandrescuefl.org</a>
Kim Chonko	Director (Breed Mentor)	<a href="mailto:beachbearnewfs@yahoo.com">beachbearnewfs@yahoo.com</a>
Donna Viger	Director (Professional Outreach)	<a href="mailto:dmv1984@yahoo.com">dmv1984@yahoo.com</a>
Terry Boram	Past President	<a href="mailto:terry.boram@gmail.com">terry.boram@gmail.com</a>
Rescue Team	Laura Feldman Sandy Miller Donna Viger Jay Sanford Stacy Sanford	
Parade Chair	Sandy Miller	<a href="mailto:parade@newfoundlandrescuefl.org">parade@newfoundlandrescuefl.org</a>

## Urgent Need for Adopter

Bear is a 5-6 year old neutered male who is in need of a home as soon as possible. He is currently having a refresher at Unleash Fido in Jacksonville and would come with future help from his trainer. We are looking for someone who will keep working on what he has learned. He will need to be in a home with no small dogs, cats or younger children. We know finding a home without a few other dogs is hard, but please let us know if you know anyone who might be a good fit for Bear. He will make a great dog for the right family. He can be fostered if you want to make sure he fits in with your household.

Contact our Rescue Chair, Laura Feldman at 813-943-7218 or email her at [rescue@newfoundlandrescuefl.org](mailto:rescue@newfoundlandrescuefl.org).





## Transporters Are the First to Say Hello – Welcome London

By Christine McConnell

Look at these pictures. This is sweet London. I was called by our fantastic rescue team to see if I was busy that day. They needed a transport in a hurry scurry. Of course I said yes....who can refuse a ride with a sweet Newfie?

So, when I'm asked Why the heck do you drive to xxxx n xxxx ....?", "Why do you go pick up these big dogs and transport? And "Why do ya fill in the blank?" The questions are endless. I will forever be telling them about this transport.

My first on London was her bolting out the door towards me, her family member flying behind her like a kite, she was a tiny nice lady. Things had changed in the family and this sweet girl was in panic mode....eyes like saucers, full gallop...she ran right to my car hopped in and sat down. It took about 10-15 minutes for the anxiousness, heavy breathing, and saucer eyes to calm down. I started telling her she was loved. She was good. She was strong. She was wanted. I look in the mirror at her and noticed her settling down. I told her she's got a new adventure coming and many folks will be loving her and she's ok.



**"You are loved. You are worthy of love. You are kind. You are amazing. You are safe. You are adored. You will be whole again in this new adventure."**

The breathing really calmed....here it comes...the nose over the seat cover and kissing my ear and side of my neck. She spent the rest of the trip looking out the side windows, calm. She would reach over the seat cover, droopy sweet kisses.

I reach the meet up place. I'm giving her some water n talking with her by the side of the car. She's drinking the water. I'm reaffirming all the things I've said before. I pause, she slathers my whole forehead to chin twice.

So why do I do this again? Because...

**They are loved. They are patient. They are wanted. They are kind.**

Anyone else want to help rescue out? It's a wonderful ride-share with no regrets.

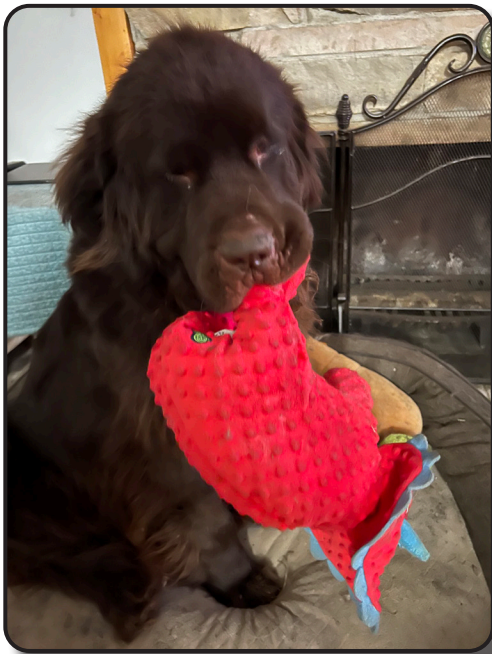




## **Foster Failing is not a Bad Thing**

*By Sandy and Ray Miller*

On Monday October 7th, I got a phone call from Terry about a dog being surrendered in Sarasota that needed to be picked up immediately before Hurricane Milton arrived. With Ray off at the Villages, he was close enough to drive south to get him. He got home after midnight with this wild and wet dog who immediately jumped up and hit me in the mouth with his entire face. As you all know, Sarasota was hit fairly badly by the hurricane so we were glad we'd gone ahead and got him right away as everyone was fleeing north on the interstate.



We were just brushed by the Hurricane but ended up at the emergency vet with Mack by Friday. Thankful we were able to get him through hookworms and on the road to recovery quickly once we were on the right medication. He has bad hips and knees but is really able to get along fine at present. We continue to work on keeping all his feet on the ground. He's the biggest cuddler we've ever had as he climbs into your lap and rolls over on you. Of course we foster failed again. Who would be able to say farewell to this boy. There is no such thing as too many Newfs!

