

Intro to Water Work

On Land Training Course

The Newfoundland is a multipurpose working dog that is structurally built and instinctively ready for working on land and in the water. This is due to the Newfs' large and powerful stature, wide chest, webbed paws, oily double coat, and a lifesaving sense of responsibility. However, every Newfoundland will vary considerably in their working dog attitude, instinct, and abilities, both in and out of the water. Factors such as health, age, exposure, drive, lineage, and handler experience play a role in this, but with training and practice, all Newfs are capable of water work to some degree, even if it is on land.

*In order to maintain, preserve, and promote the working dog focus of the breed, such as water rescue work, the Newfoundland Club of America (NCA) has established a set of exercises for training and testing. Exercises are subcategorized into three divisions, which build upon each other, using skills that were historically correlated to the water work Newfoundlands were originally bred and used for. It is these exercises which will be the primary focus and reference used in group water training. **Whether you plan on testing and titling or just want to learn basic skills and focused swimming, the main and primary goal of this group is to have a fun and safe experience with your dog.** Training is not limited to the NCA exercises, but they will be used as a guide. Since our primary focus is Intro to Water Work, the following is a list of the NCA Junior Water Rescue Work Division, Title, and Exercises. Please refer to the NCA website for more detailed description and information for Junior Division, Senior Division, and Excellent Division: <http://www.ncanewfs.org/working/water/index.htm>*



Junior Division Water Dog (WD)

- Basic Control
- Single Retrieve
- Drop Retrieve
- Take a Line
- Tow a Boat
- Swim with Handler



Training Objectives and Methods

Having basic control of your dog is a necessary first step for doing any type of water activity. A well behaved dog is a pleasure to be around and makes your experience together enjoyable, satisfying, and safer for all. Training on land is one of the best ways to build confidence in yourself as a handler and your dog. Contrary to popular belief, not all Newfs instinctively know how to swim, and while others may take to it naturally, sometimes either dog or handler may not have the understanding yet of basic skills for further training, which can make the difference between a fun and successful experience or a frustrating and time consuming one. For the Newfs and handlers that have already been working as a team in the water, land work can be an opportunity to introduce new challenges and adjust or enhance current training. Working as a group, both on land and in water, provides basic skills, a better controlled environment, and the support of others in preparation of water activities and group water practice.

Training should be a fun and exciting activity for you and your dog as you learn to work as a team. The goal is an operant dog that wants to work with you, and is best achieved through positive and enriching methods and techniques. Water work on land will utilize games, tricks, toys, praise, and treats for your dog. The overall group atmosphere also introduces distractions, which in itself is a training aid that helps prepare the team for life in public. While the dog is learning basic skills, handlers can learn how to use body language and voice commands in training, specifically during water work. Whether training or playing in the water, it is important to be able to instruct and communicate with your dog at great distances and with many distractions.

See below for registration information regarding Intro to Water Work on Land sessions, contact, and more...

Water Work on Land Session Dates, Times, and Place

Sessions will be held on land. These sessions are meant as a prequel to Group Water Practice. See more information in section below. All three sessions are recommended.

May 11, Sat 9:30 - 11:30

June 1, Sat 9:30 – 11:30

June 9, Sun 9:30 – 11:30

Location:

Latourette Park

902 11th St, Oregon City, OR 97045

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/4HY9yFR3NGuc59pv8> Oregon City, OR 97045

Location subject to change. You will be notified as soon as possible.

Items and Expectations

- Crate, water, collar, leash, lots of treats, poop bags, blanket or towel to cover crate.
- A favorite toy and/or bumper.
- Please keep dogs leashed at all times. Limit dogs socializing until after class.
- While a dog is resting, another will be working, participants assist others in rotational order.
- Most important: **HAVE FUN!**

Contact and RSVP

**Please RSVP Elise by email one week prior to each session. Include your name, Newf name, age, skill level, and any health restrictions. Please email or text me with any questions!
Newfoundland dogs only.**

Elise DeChaine Ghiglieri

courtroyalnewfoundlands@gmail.com

503-680-6476

Donations are encouraged, but not required. Donation will be used for boat maintenance.

Preview of Summer Group Water Work Practice - Details Available Soon

- *Group Water Work practice generally begins in July and ends in September. We meet one morning (TBD) each weekday and on Saturday mornings. Practices are held at Horseshoe Lake Park, Woodland, WA. Occasionally, there will be other times and locations. Each practice will have a boat, some extra equipment and an experienced handler. Each participant is expected to assist with every team and support the success of their goals, no matter what that might be. Participants will get wet.*
- *Intro to Water Work on Land is not required as a prerequisite. It is highly suggested so that you can get started sooner in the water and make the most out of the summer season.*

Regarding the Use of a Crate, a Common Question

Why do we need a crate if we are there to work with our dogs, especially in the water? Use of a crate is a show of respect for the dogs and people in group, general public, and other animals. First, group training on land or practice at the water means being in a public location, such as a park. The crate protects the dogs from the public and the public from the dogs. Not all people, wildlife, or other dogs treat and respect our pets as we would like, and not everyone, wildlife, or other dogs want our Newfs around them. Second, the crate is a safe, private resting place for our Newfs to rest after training and swimming, which is hard work both mentally and physically. Thirdly, the crate gives the owner/handler a break and allows them the time needed to assist and learn from other group members. Fourth, group training and practice, on land or water, while being a fun, social event, is still a focused learning activity. Dogs should be limited in their interactions with each other during this time in order to engage and work as a team with their owner/handler, especially puppies, beginner dogs, and dogs learning new skills, as they have shorter attention spans and can be more easily distracted. Plus, dogs of all ages, experience, health, and personality attend group training and practice. The crate can help owners/handlers to appreciate and honor the individual needs and tolerance of each dog. Crate or not, no dog will ever be put in a compromising or unsafe environment, and every group participant assists to ensure the safety and well being of every dog.