

***“If you never did you should. These things are fun, and fun is good.” Dr. Suess***

## **WELCOME TO OUR WATER WORK TRAINING GROUP**

We're so glad to have you join our Water Work training group! Although we are a private group, the coordinators and many group participants are members of Pacific Northwest Newfoundland Club (PNNC), Newfoundland Club of Seattle (NCS), and Newfoundland Club of America (NCA) therefore, we abide by and represent the rules and mission of our clubs. However, it is not necessary to be a member of a club to participate in our Water Work training. In fact, we are excited at the prospect to share, encourage, and provide our experiences and expertise with you and your Newf. This guide is meant to provide group specific information to help everyone have a fun, safe, and productive season.

### **Our Mission**

Provide safe, supportive, fun, and consistent training sessions to encourage and instruct each team (handler/dog), promote the natural abilities of our Newfs, and contribute to the overall success of individual team goals.

Provide support, encouragement, and fun training sessions for both handler and dogs.

Group practice is meant to benefit participants of all skill levels. Whether puppy, beginner, intermediate, or experienced, we all learn from one another.

### **Group Participation**

The structure of the group is based, but not limited to, the Newfoundland Club of America (NCA) Water Work exercises, which have been designed to progressively increase the natural abilities and skill set of a Newfoundland. A variety of different games, instruction, and methods are also used during practice. The NCA Water Work exercises are used for testing, and since the ultimate goal of many group participants is to train for testing (or the future possibility of testing), it is these exercises that are primarily followed during training. These exercises also provide focused intention, which allows for a more organized and successful practices. For more information about the history, purpose, and particular order of these exercises, please refer to NCA Working Dog. In order to accommodate, assist, and be of best service to each team, particularly those training for a test, it is greatly appreciated when group participants have a basic understanding or concept of the exercises.

- **NCA Working Dogs Water Work**
- **Junior Exercises, Water Dog (WD) title**
- **Senior Exercises, Water Rescue Dog (WRD) title**
- **Excellent Exercises, Water Rescue Dog Excellence (WRDX) title**

### **General Process and Expectations**

- ✓ Set up, help with boat if needed, and be ready to either work your dog or assist with another handler/dog team at designated start time.
- ✓ **Dogs must be leashed, in control, and in a crate or X-Pen when not working** (several x-pens can be made available).
  - Participants cannot assist others if they are holding a dog. One of the best ways to learn is by helping and watching others. Dogs are exhausted and flooded with a lot of new information and stimulus. They need a safe resting place to recharge and get the most out of training. This is not just swimming, but a learning and training environment. Practices are at public parks with sometimes many other park visitors, dogs, kids, etc so for the safety and sanity of all, our dogs should have a reliable containment or enclosure. It can be very distracting to many dogs and handlers, esp. young dogs and those trying to learn new skills to have another uncontained dog in the working area.
  - Practices are at public parks with mandatory leash laws
- ✓ **Expect to get wet and be in the water.**
- ✓ **Each team will have an opportunity to work their dogs with assistance of other group participants**
  - Number of turns and the amount of time per turn will be determined by how many participants are available each practice, age of dog, and skill level of both handler and dog.
  - Please do your best to remain at practice for the duration so that everyone has the training opportunity necessary for particular exercises of choice.
- ✓ After practice assist with loading boat, help clear the practice area, and remove personal equipment from park.
- ✓ This is a training session. Limit play with the other dogs, and always with consent of both handlers.
  - If you remain after practice is over, your dog must be leashed and in control. The parks we train at have allowed the use of the parks for both training and testing. A privilege we will not take advantage of.
- ✓ **Always pick up your dogs poop.**

## Equipment

- ❖ A boat is (usually) available each practice.
  - The two different boats are most often used at practice. One privately owned (Amy Canzano/Elise DeChaine Ghiglieri's) and PNNC club boat. Please be respectful and considerate of the maintenance, time, and all that goes into getting a boat to and from practice.
  - Everyone will have a chance to use the boat if they want or need during their training turn. Use of the boat after practice will depend on the person that is hauling it.
- ❖ Rubber raft, life jackets, long line, and a couple extra bumpers and toys for use at practice may be available.
- ❖ **If you and your dog are new to Water Work, it is highly recommended that your dog have their own bumper or water toy.**
- ❖ A list of the required equipment needed for each level of testing can be found on the NCA website link listed above.
- ❖ Crate or X-Pen (available with prior notice).
- ❖ Leash and collar. A long line, preferably one that floats, is also recommended (20-50 ft).
- ❖ Water shoes (not flip flops)
- ❖ If you have your own life jacket please bring it. The park has extras, but no guarantee of size.
- ❖ Wear clothes that you can swim in.

## Where and When

- Regular practices will be twice weekly, with the exception of specified dates. Regular attendance and participation is highly recommended for the success and progress of you and your dogs training. Particular exercises require a minimum amount of helpers and the use of the boat. The number of people at practice will dictate to some individuals which dog they bring, the exercises they work on, or whether it is necessary to haul a boat to practice. Weekly reminders will be emailed, so please let us know if you will be able to attend.
- Practices will be held on Tuesday and Saturday mornings.
- Unless otherwise noted, practices will be at Horseshoe Lake Park in Woodland, WA
- Practice times may vary slightly per day and week, but are usually as follows:
  - Tuesday morning 8:30/9:00 to 11:30/12:00
  - Saturday morning 8:00/8:30 to 11:00/11:30
- A weekly email will be sent to confirm practice location, time, and attendance.

## Contacts

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## Resources

Newfoundland Club of America

<http://www.ncanewfs.org/index.shtml#.W0nKfGhIAac>

Pacific Northwest Newfoundland Club

<https://pnncc.org>

## Covid 19 Safety and Health Rules and Requirements for Horseshoe Lake, Woodland, WA

The City of Woodland is currently in phase 2, pending approval for phase 3. Until further notice, several groups of five people or less is allowed, and six ft between groups and individuals is recommended. PNNC suggests the use of face masks while within close proximity of others (for instance, in boat), and having personal hand sanitizer that is used frequently. Please do your part to stay safe and healthy during this time.

***"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts." Winston Churchill***