

The Newfoundland Breeder Checklist

This list is a suggestion. Tailor it to suit your requirements. If health and longevity are of utmost importance to you, give more weight to that section. If temperament and obedience is more important, give additional weight to those issues.

This is not intended to be a questionnaire for you to give a breeder to fill out. It is designed to give people who have never bought a dog a basis for evaluating different breeders. All breeders are not alike, and they will each emphasize different priorities in their breeding programs. What you will want to do is to find a breeder that you are comfortable with, someone who won't change her phone number after you buy the puppy. The breeder should want - or better yet require - feedback from you as the puppy grows. She should want to know of any problems or the successes in order to continue to make the most informed breeding decisions.

This checklist is something that you should be able to fill out with ease after talking to each breeder a couple of times, or exchanging several emails. If there are things in here that you do not understand, make sure you ask and read more about dogs, more about the breed, and more about choosing a breeder. The puppy you select will have a better chance of growing up to be a healthy Newf who can be a loving companion for many years, if you do your research first. There are plenty of breeders out there but finding the right one for you is up to YOU to find, recognize, and develop a relationship with.

Just as you will have a great many questions for the breeder, don't be surprised if the breeder has some questions about your suitability as the adopter of her puppy! As a matter of fact, if the breeder is willing to part with a puppy without checking into your ability to provide the proper home, beware! A good breeder should be very concerned that her pups will have the very best environment, and won't wind up running loose in the street, dumped at a shelter, or returned to her because they got too big or drooled on the sofa or knocked over the antique vase with their tail!

Remember, this is a tool to help you compare breeders side by side. There is not a perfect score, because there is no perfect dog. Every breeder must make decisions and compromises as they work towards their breeding program goals. Having conversations with multiple breeders will give you a feel for which items are a priority for you and which are not as important but would be nice to have.

Some terms used in the checklist:

Sire – the father of the puppies

Dam – the mother of the puppies

OFA – Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (www.ofa.org) public database for health testing results

PennHip – a method of testing hip laxity as a precursor to dysplasia, not a publicly searchable database for results

AKC – American Kennel Club the official registering body for purebred dogs in the United States, the AKC Marketplace is a paid breeder listing and does not reflect breeder quality, they do signify if someone is a Breeder of Merit, a Parent Club Member or part of the Bred with Heart Program

NCA – Newfoundland Club of America, the parent club for the breed in the US

Breeder Name/Kennel Name:

Health Issues

Sire's hips x-rayed after 24 months	+2	__
Hips rated passing by OFA (fair, good or excellent)	+2	__
PennHip DI < .58	+2	__
Dam's hips x-rayed after 24 months	+2	__
Hips rated passing by OFA (fair, good or excellent)	+2	__
PennHip DI < .58	+2	__
Each parent littermate with CHD (max of -5)	-1 each	__
Each parent littermate with hip status unknown (max of -5)	-1 each	__
Sire's elbows x-rayed after 24 months	+2	__
Each elbow certified normal	+2	__
Dam's elbows x-rayed after 24 months	+2	__
Each elbow certified normal	+2	__
Each parent littermate with ED (max of -5)	-1 each	__
Each parent littermate with elbow status unknown (max of -5)	-1 each	__
Sire heart cleared by echocardiogram and listed by OFA	+3	__
Sire heart cleared by auscultation by a cardiologist and listed by OFA	+2	__
Sire heart cleared by a practitioner and listed by OFA	+1	__
Dam heart cleared by echocardiogram and listed by OFA	+3	__
Dam heart cleared by auscultation by a cardiologist and listed by OFA	+2	__
Dam heart cleared by a practitioner and listed by OFA	+1	__
Sire cystinuria status known (either clear or carrier)	+2	__
Dam cystinuria status known (either clear or carrier)	+2	__
Sire eyes cleared by an ophthalmologist and listed by OFA	+2	__
Dam eyes cleared by an ophthalmologist and listed by OFA	+2	__
Sire has patella clearance listed by OFA	+1	__
Dam has patella clearance listed by OFA	+1	__
Sire has thyroid clearance listed by OFA	+1	__
Dam has thyroid clearance listed by OFA	+1	__
Breeder knows the cause of death of any of the grandparents, great-grand parents or great-great grandparents	+1each	__
Breeder can discuss non-testable issues in the breed (bloat, atopy, renal dysplasia, congenital radial head luxation, cruciate tears, OCD, cancer) and how they have presented in their lines. All dogs have health problems in their lines – Don't be scared! It is important to know what they are and how the breeder has made breeding choices to minimize them. A breeder who claims no health problems in a 3-generation pedigree is a red flag.	+5	__
Total Health Score:		__

Breeder Name/Kennel Name:

Breeder Knowledge

Breeder participates in conformation shows	+2	___
Breeder participates in working events	+2	___
Breeder participates in obedience, performance, or companion events	+2	___
Breeder is a member of the NCA	+2	___
Breeder is a member of one or more Regional Newfoundland Clubs	+2	___
Breeder is a member of an All-Breed and/or Training Club	+2	___
Breeder holds or has held active club positions	+2	___
Breeder is familiar with health conditions that occur in the breed and can discuss their heritability, treatment and prognosis	+5	___
Breeder openly discusses and health issues in her line	+5	___
Breeder questions you thoroughly on things you have to offer a pup and what you are looking for in a Newfoundland	+5	___
Breeder takes time to explain how she determines if a pup is companion, show or breeding potential and will discuss the qualities of specific adults and pups	+2	___
Breeder can explain the relative strengths and weaknesses in the sire and dam and why they were chosen to be paired together.	+2	___
Breeder claims all or almost every pup in a litter is show quality	-5	___
Breeder can discuss the historic work of the breed and how the structure of the Newfoundland affects their ability to do their job	+2	___
Breeder provides you with contacts for NCA Newfoundland Ambassadors and your closest Regional Newfoundland Club	+2	___

Total Breeder Knowledge Score: ___

Notes:

Breeder Name/Kennel Name:

Communication/Contract

Breeder provides the AKC Registered name of the sire and the dam before sale	+2	___
Breeder provides a written copy of her standard contract to review before sale	+2	___
Breeder provides a 3-generation pedigree before sale	+2	___
Deposit required before you have a contract	-5	___
Guarantee given – look closely at any guarantee given – what is required by you and the breeder? Do you need to return the dog for a refund? Will your breeder refund in case of genetic health issue or only offer a replacement puppy?	+1	___
Any co-ownership requirements clearly spelled out & reasonable for both parties	+2	___
Provides support and ability to return for any reason for the life of the dog	+5	___
Companion Puppies sold with AKC Limited Registration only	+2	___
Companion Puppies sold with Spay/Neuter required by maturity	+2	___
Companion Puppies sold with hip/elbow x-rays required at sterilization	+2	___
Willing to sell a breeding pup to anyone for additional money	-5	___
Breeding pups sold with an expectation that you will make a lifelong commitment to any pups produced	+2	___
Requires demonstration of breed knowledge and willingness to be mentored to sell breeding pups	+2	___
Contract stipulates that breeding pups must have appropriate health testing and evaluation as an adult before being deemed suitable for breeding	+2	___
Breeder places puppies after cardiologist screening at 9+ weeks of age	+5	___
Breeder requires pups to be AKC registered or completes the registration for you	+2	___
Breeder microchips all puppies before sending them home	+2	___
Breeder discusses pros/cons of Gastropexy at the time of sterilization	+2	___
Breeder encourages all breed specific health testing to be done on all pups at the appropriate age	+2	___
Total Communication/Contract Score:		___

Notes:

Summary

Breeder/Kennel Name:

Health Score: ____
Temperament/Socialization Score: ____
Breeder Knowledge Score: ____
Communication/Contract Score: ____

Total: ____

Conversation notes:

Pros:

Cons: