

NEWFOUNDLAND CLUB OF AMERICA

Breeder's Corner



Great Breeders Never Stop Learning.



In a world where our breed, our sport, and our community are constantly evolving, the responsibility of a breeder extends far beyond the whelping box. It lives in the quiet hours spent reading the latest research, in the ringside moments observing current stock with a critical and open mind, and in the conversations—both planned and spontaneous—with fellow breeders who share a commitment to doing better for the dogs we love.

Continuing education is not a luxury in breeding—it is an obligation. Advances in health research, shifts in structure and type, and a deeper understanding of genetics all shape the decisions we make today that will impact generations to come. Staying informed allows us to breed with intention, not habit.

Equally important is the value of showing up. Attending specialties and all-breed shows gives us the opportunity to see the breed as it is now—to evaluate trends, to recognize strengths, and to identify areas that need preservation or improvement. What we observe in the ring should inform what we strive for at home.

And perhaps most powerful of all is connection. No breeder works in isolation. The exchange of ideas, mentorship, and honest dialogue within our community strengthens not only individual programs, but the future of the breed itself.

As we approach the NCA National Specialty, we look forward to seeing you in Warwick where opportunities for networking, hearing about advances in research and observing the best in the breed in the ring will abound.

**The National Specialty - One Show Is the Breeder/Owner
Handler's 'Specialty'**



When it comes to showcasing breeding stock, nothing compares with the series of events known collectively as a National Specialty. Wherever breeders gather to have their dogs evaluated by recognized experts (who are often breeders themselves), the purpose of the “purposefully-bred” purebred is rightfully acknowledged. These AKC parent club events provide owner handlers with educational opportunities in their chosen breed, and they allow connections to be made. Attendance year after year reinforces relationships, and a few lucky exhibitors even get to realize lifelong dreams. For anyone with a commitment to breed preservation, there’s no better place to be than in—or around—the rings at “The National.”

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Bringing Dogs to the National?

When you’re heading to the National Specialty with your Newfoundland—and especially if you’re bringing more than one—you’re not just packing for a trip. You’re planning for anything that might happen along the way. Long drives, changing weather, and busy schedules can all bring surprises, so having the right supplies in your vehicle helps keep both you and your dogs safe and comfortable.



Start with the basics. Even if you’re not someone who works on cars, having a few simple tools can make a big difference. A small tool kit with things like pliers, screwdrivers, and jumper cables can help you—or someone who stops to help—get back on the road faster. It’s also smart to keep an old cell phone and a charger in your vehicle. Even without a plan, it can still call 911 in an emergency.

Because Newfoundlands don’t handle heat well, it’s important to be ready if you get stuck in warm weather. A reflective blanket or tarp can give you shade if you need it. Battery-powered fans and sun shades can help keep air moving and temperatures down inside your vehicle. Always carry plenty of water—not just for you, but for every dog you’ve brought along. When you’re traveling with multiple dogs, you’ll go through more water than you think.

Safety and control are just as important. Crates are one of the best ways to keep your dogs secure during travel and in an emergency. If something happens, they help prevent your dogs from getting loose or overwhelmed. Bring strong, durable leashes as well—something reliable that will hold up under stress.

It’s also important to think about what would happen if you couldn’t speak for yourself. Keep a clearly marked envelope in your vehicle with emergency contact information for

both you and your dogs. This way, first responders know who to call and how to help care for your Newfoundlands if needed.

A few simple safety items can go a long way. A reflective vest makes you easier to see if you're on the side of the road. Flashlights or headlamps are helpful if something happens at night. Keep a first aid kit for yourself and one for your dogs, too. Wet wipes, towels, and even a little spare change can come in handy more often than you'd expect.

Finally, don't forget the multi-use items. Things like a multi-tool, duct tape, rope, or bungee cords can solve all kinds of problems on the road. Bolt cutters might seem like a lot, but if a crate gets damaged, they could be the only way to safely get a dog out.

Traveling to the National with your Newfoundlands takes effort, especially when you're managing a group. But being prepared means you can focus on enjoying the trip, supporting your dogs, and making the most of your time there. A well-stocked vehicle isn't just about emergencies—it's about peace of mind every mile of the journey.



What's So Special About Specialty Dog Shows?

A specialty dog show is an event that features just a single breed, or the varieties of one breed. There are about 2,000 specialty dog shows every year. Like all Conformation classes, the goal of the national is to determine the best breeding stock to contribute and improve the next generation of dogs. Conformation is taken very seriously at the national because the event is a chance to look at the state of the breed and where it's going.

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Important Vaccine Information

In Rhode Island, dogs attending public events like dog shows must have proof of a current, veterinarian-administered rabies vaccination. Dogs three months or older need vaccination, with those six months



or older requiring it at least 30 days before entry. A valid rabies certificate is required.

Breeder Panel Discussion

You're warmly invited to join us at the 2026 INCA National Specialty for a special Breeder Panel Discussion—an opportunity to come together, share knowledge, and strengthen the future of our breed.

Whether you're a long-time breeder or just beginning your journey, these conversations are for all of us. Breeder panel discussions are an important part of continuing education. They help connect the latest scientific research with the real, hands-on experience we rely on every day in our breeding programs.

During this panel, you'll hear from experienced breeders and knowledgeable experts as they share insights on topics that matter—genetics, health testing, reproduction, and more. It's a chance to learn about new research and better understand how it applies to the dogs we live with and love.

Just as important, these discussions create space to share best practices. From improving breeding outcomes to supporting puppy health and welfare, the lessons shared can make a meaningful difference across all of our programs. Every perspective adds value, and every question helps us grow.

The panel is also a place to connect. You'll have the opportunity to meet fellow breeders, build relationships, and find support within a community that understands both the rewards and the challenges of breeding. These connections often turn into lasting mentorships and friendships.

We'll also explore the responsibilities we carry as breeders—ethical decision-making, thoughtful planning, and maintaining high standards that reflect our commitment to the breed. Open conversations about these topics help all of us continue to improve and uphold the integrity of our work.

This is more than a discussion—it's a shared experience. A time to listen, learn, and contribute. We hope you'll join us, bring your questions, and be part of a conversation that supports not just our dogs, but each other.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Breeder Panel Discussion

Networking · Mentorship · Best Practices · Education



06 May
2026



Start at
7pm



Bristol Room
Crowne Plaza, Warwick

Puppy Referral System

The NCA has a Puppy Referral System. This program allows any NCA member to list a planned litter, puppies available or an adult needing placement. Listings are now available to all NCA members. If you have questions or suggestions about the program, please [let us know](#).

[Start a New Listing](#)



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**Breeder Support
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The Newfoundland Club of America aspires to be a vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive community of enthusiasts recognized as the leading voice for the preservation, protection, promotion, and celebration of the Newfoundland Dog.



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