

2nd Quarter 2025
NewfCare:
RESEARCH & RESCUE

YOUR GIFT
THEIR FUTURE



Rescue Report



Seattle's *Barrister Fund* grant for "Coco"

The Newfoundland Club of America Charitable Trust administers a grant program to provide financial support that meets the Trust's grant criteria for extraordinary veterinary care, where financial assistance for care would prevent the Newf being surrendered to Rescue. In 2019 the Seattle Newfoundland Club asked the NCA Trust to manage a grant program for Seattle area Newfoundlands.

"Coco" had already been privately rehomed once in the Seattle area. Her new family had covered her spay expense and was managing veterinary ongoing costs due to megaesophagus. She recently sustained a torn cranial cruciate ligament that required surgical repair. The Blake family applied and the Trust's review process approved the grant. Although other surgical services were available, the family chose to drive eight hours to the

Research News

2025 AKC Canine Health Foundation National Parent Club Canine Health Conference

Science for Healthy, Vibrant Dogs" is the theme of the 2025 National Parent Club Canine Health Conference. This 15th biennial event also marks the 30th anniversary of the AKC Canine Health Foundation and will take place in an exciting new location – Durham, NC, from August 7–9, 2025!

Representatives from the NCA Charitable Trust will be attending to network with researchers and learn more about cutting-edge insights from CHF-funded research.

[Learn More](#)



A New MRI Technique Brings Hope for Exploring the Hidden Layers of Canine Epilepsy | AKC Canine Health Foundation

It's the diagnosis in nearly half of all canine epilepsy cases—the other half typically results from structural issues like brain tumors or trauma.

veterinary specialists in Idaho as recommended by Seattle club members.

Post-surgery the family reports, "She is doing well! Just keeping her down is the hardest part. She's already getting around really well."

Coco is getting to remain with a family that truly loves her and is dedicated to her care, thanks to generous donors like you who support The Barrister Fund as part of our overall Rescue efforts.



Learn more about the NCA Rescue Program and how you can help.

Read More

Morris Animal Foundation Funds Four New Grants to Fight Osteosarcoma

Dr. Cheryl London – Tufts University and Dr. Steven Dow – Colorado State University: Investigating the efficacy of a new combination therapy to enhance treatment outcomes.

Dr. Matthew Berry – University of Illinois: Studying a targeted radiation therapy paired with a new vaccine therapy to boost immune response against tumors.

Dr. Behzad Toosi – University of Saskatchewan: Testing a library of over 1,800 drug compounds in combination with standard chemotherapy on osteosarcoma cell lines.

Dr. Courtney Schott – University of Guelph, Canada: Exploring how the expression of the MYC gene influence osteosarcoma progression and treatment responsiveness.

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Learn more about the NCA Health Challenge and how you can support Research



NCA Charitable Trust at the 2025 NCA National Specialty



The NCA Charitable Trust held a meeting with the Trustee at the NCA National Specialty in Warwick, RI in May.

Charitable Trust Board members, Clyde Dunphy, Mary L. Price, John Cornell and Mary Lou Cuddy met with the Trustee. Additionally the Trust held fundraising events at the Trust's information booth for attendees of the National Specialty.

A special Thank You to All who helped raise funds for health research and Newfoundland rescue.

Kenzie Coleman representing the Morris Animal Foundation had a display inside the Trust booth with a poster depicting the Partnership in Newfoundland Health Research with the NCA Charitable Trust and Morris. She interacted with donors and discussed research initiatives.

Additionally, Thanks to all the volunteers, along with Mary Jane Spackman, who helped daily with setup and worked in the Trust booth.

Clyde Dunphy ,Trust Chairman and Mary L Price, Trust Treasurer

Ways To Help



Remembering Dr. Vilma Yuzbasiyan-Gurkan

It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of Dr. Vilma Yuzbasiyan-Gurkan, a cherished member of the Michigan State University community and a Professor in the Departments of Microbiology, Genetics, & Immunology and Small Animal Clinical Sciences. Yuzbasiyan-Gurkan passed due to medical complications related to treatment for a recently discovered cancer. Her loss is deeply felt by her colleagues, students, and friends.



Dr. Vilma Yuzbasiyan-Gurkan, center, is seen here with MGI colleagues, Drs. Steph Shames and Yu Zhang.

Dr. Vilma, as she was known in the Newfoundland community, was an integral part of the genetic research team, working on SAS and Forelimb Anomaly. Her lab was also the repository for the vast Bernergarde DNA database. Jenny Zablotny, DVM, shares, *"Her death is a loss to the academic and purebred dog communities. She was always willing to talk about her research (I still don't*

completely understand the details!) and meet me to pick up samples. Her daily commute took her right through my town. She was genuinely interested in the dogs, not just the research aspect, but all aspects. Always helpful and friendly, I will miss our chats in the Lowe's parking lot. God speed, Dr Vilma."

[READ MORE](#)



You've banked your Newf's DNA. What's next? Something **ONLY** you can do!

The CHIC DNA Repository collects and stores canine DNA samples along with corresponding genealogic and phenotypic information to facilitate future research and testing aimed at reducing the incidence of inherited disease in dogs. It's goals are to facilitate more

rapid research progress by expediting the sample collection process, provide researchers with optimized family groups needed for research, allow breeders to take advantage of future DNA-based disease tests as they become available, and foster a team environment between breeders/owners and the research community, improving the likelihood of genetic discovery.

Several of the presentations at the 2023 AKC/CHF National Parent Club Canine Health Conference highlighted the utility of the banked DNA in jumpstarting research. Newfoundlands currently have 2162 banked samples (1329 blood based, 833 swab based), 43 with SAS for example. Thanks in large part the dedicated collection efforts at National Specialities and Trust support for the submission fees, these samples represent over 2% of the entire DNA collection! To be of the **MOST** value to researchers, we must also make the commitment to update each Newf's veterinary history and their human's contact information periodically.

The samples collected at National Specialities are typically young dogs and generally healthy at the time of collection. While some conditions are diagnosed early, many conditions develop later in life. This collection is particularly useful for control (unaffected) samples. If your sample is selected as a possible control, OFA will contact you to confirm there have been no changes to that Newf's health status. If your Newf does develop a problem, reporting it may help develop prevention strategies or effective treatments in the future.

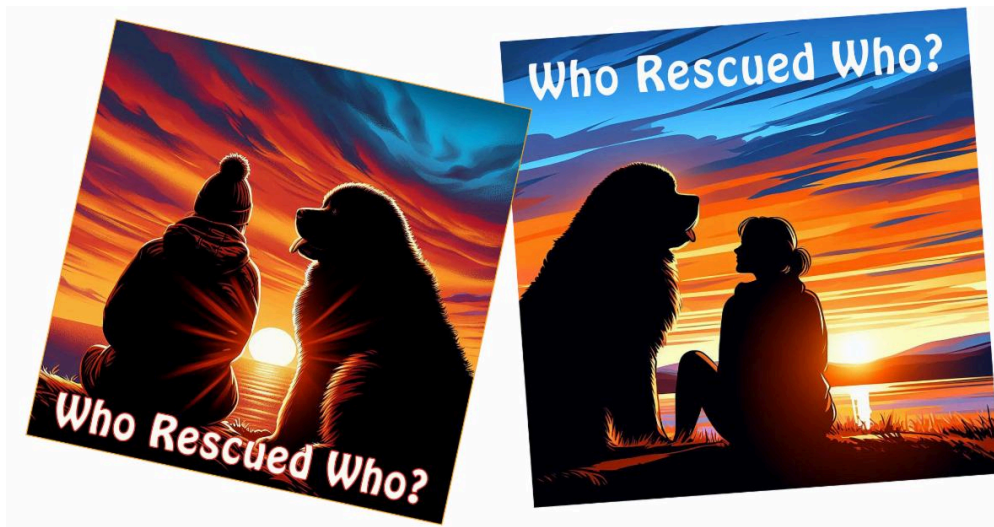
When should you send an update? Please report any new definitive diagnosis. Please report date of death particularly if you have a definitive cause of death. Report any transfer of ownership of the Newf as well as any change your email address. And please do it **BEFORE** something happens to **YOU** as **YOU** may be the **ONLY** one who knows this information and can make that crucial link to your donated DNA sample. Do it **NOW** then set an annual reminder on your calendar!

How to report? If your dog has DNA banked in the CHIC DNA Repository and has had any significant health status changes since filling out the original phenotypic health survey, please remember to email the OFA with updates. Include the dog's name/number, as well as any updated diagnosis. As the number of researchers interested in this resource continues to increase, it is important to keep the health histories up to date, as that is typically the primary selection criteria for supplying samples to a given research proposal. Email updates to: ofa@offa.org. Thank You!

Lori Littleford, Research Advisory Committee Chair

Email The OFA

Show Your Support



"Who Rescued Who?" – Wear Your Heart on Your Sleeve (Literally!)

Celebrate the bond between humans and their four-legged heroes with our exclusive "Who Rescued Who?" fundraising merchandise. Whether you adopted your best friend or they found you, this collection is a tribute to the love, loyalty, and second chances that rescue Newfoundlands bring into our lives.

Every purchase supports the NCA National Rescue Network in providing care, shelter, and forever homes for Newfoundlands in need. From cozy tees to coffee mugs that warm your hands and heart, each item helps us continue our mission—one big paw at a time.

 Look good. Do good. Feel good.

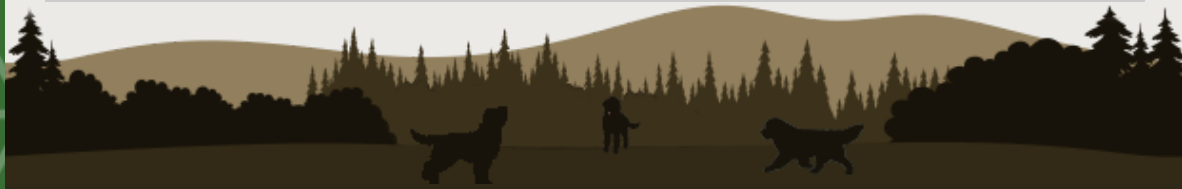
Because sometimes... the one who saved you had four paws.

Shop now and show the world who really rescued who.



Planned Giving

The NCA Charitable Trust has many planned giving opportunities, please contact us to learn more - - **Learn More**



NCA Charitable Trust
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