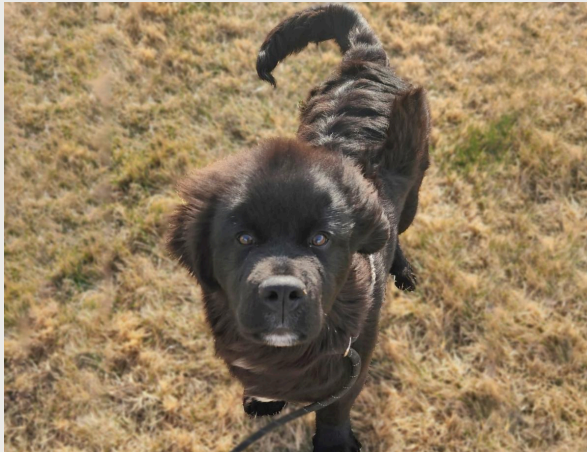


2nd Quarter 2026
NewfCare:
RESEARCH & RESCUE

YOUR GIFT
THEIR FUTURE



Rescue Report



Closure for 42 Dogs: Montana Breeder Sentenced in Mass Neglect Case

A Yellowstone County, Montana judge has sentenced sisters Katie Marie Milliken and Rebekkah Lynn Collins to 10 years of probation following one of the state's most serious animal cruelty cases in recent memory. The case began in September 2025 when Billings attorney Andrea Lix purchased an 8-year-old Newfoundland named Esme from Milliken's Crystal Waters Newfoundlands kennel, only to find her emaciated — down to 62 pounds from 110 — and suffering from giardiasis and a UTI.

Lix reported her findings to the Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office (YCSO), prompting a search warrant execution that removed 42 dogs from the property, 37 of them Newfoundlands, from conditions investigators described as dungeon-like: kennels packed with feces, no food or water, and animals so matted that one dog — now called Tank — was found with chicken wire embedded in his fur. His right rear leg was later amputated.

Research News



Morris Animal Foundation Recognizes 25 Years in Partnership.

For 25 years, Morris Animal Foundation has been funding groundbreaking research specifically focused on improving the health and quality of life of Newfoundland dogs. With more than \$488,000 invested and 40+ health studies funded, the Foundation has tackled 13 major research areas affecting the breed, including hemangiosarcoma, lymphoma, osteosarcoma, subvalvular aortic stenosis (SAS), elbow dysplasia, urinary tract infections, eye diseases, atopic dermatitis, forelimb anomaly, and more. Their work has already produced meaningful results — among them, the first genetic tests for cone rod dysplasia and progressive retinal dystrophy, a promising cancer drug showing effectiveness against

In collaboration with the NCA National Rescue Network, YCSO housed and cared for the dogs at a cost of at least \$53,000, Enormous support from volunteers, groomers, veterinarians and donors made this possible. Through coordination with the Newfoundland Club of America, all 42 dogs found loving homes by January 2026.

Milliken and Collins each pleaded guilty to one count of aggravated animal cruelty and five counts of cruelty to animals. Under their probation terms, each may keep only one spayed or neutered dog and must undergo mental health evaluations. As for Esme — she's healthy, happy, and, according to Lix, currently sporting a fresh grooming and enjoying life as a pampered pooch.

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

hemangiosarcoma and melanoma, and surgical best practices for fragmented coronoid process.

Research continues on conditions that disproportionately affect our breed. Hemangiosarcoma remains devastating, with 90% of affected dogs dying within one year of diagnosis, while up to 27% of Newfoundlands will develop a urinary tract infection in their lifetime. On the cardiac front, scientists are developing a SAS screening test specific to Newfoundlands, where severe disease carries an average lifespan of just 19 months. Your donations directly support this vital work — giving our beloved Newfies longer, healthier lives.

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



NCA Charitable Trust

at the 2026 NCA National Specialty

The NCA Charitable Trust co-hosted the welcome reception for attendees and held an informational booth with Trust items for raffle at the NCA National Specialty in Warick, RI. Kenzie Coleman from Morris Animal Foundation, a health research partner, attended and discussed hemangiosarcoma research and numerous research projects and grants and handed out free items to those in attendance. The event was a success as many people stopped by to buy tickets to raise over \$6000.00 in a fundraiser for both NCA National Rescue and the Newfoundland Health Challenge.

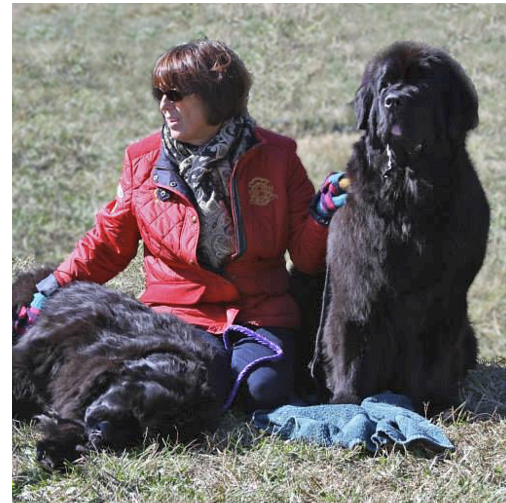
I want to specifically Thank Marylou and Dan Zimmerman for their expertise with the internet and daily posts, Windy Reed for the FaceBook live event and the many donated tee shirts to benefit Newfoundland Cardiac research. Our booth was staffed during the week by some great volunteers: Windy Reed, Kathi Weaver-Klein, Bonnie Snyder ("Trust Booth manager - for Life!), Barbara Jenness, Denise Hatakeyama, Mary Jane Spackman, Susie Almon-Matangos, Darby Barker, Christa Snyder and Tami Willard Mary L Price is our organizer and with the Help of Mary Jane Spackman, Susan Matangos , Denise Hatakeyma, Barbara Jenness and new Newfoundland Health Challenge Chairman, Kikuko Chang our event was a huge success by any measure. We truly enjoy visiting with our donors and talking health and rescue issues. Thank You to those who purchased raffle tickets for a chance at taking home Newfoundland memorabilia or a piece of Newfoundland art or history,

Special thanks to the grounds crew for helping with setup and Marc Saunders for transporting items from Oregon for the Trust Booth.

your generous donations help to support our mission.

A Legacy of Health: Honoring Mary Jane Spackman and 30 Years of the Newfoundland Health Challenge

In 1996, two individuals had a vision — to create an organization dedicated solely to improving the health of Newfoundland dogs. Mary Jane Spackman and Jan Boggio turned that



vision into action, and the Newfoundland Health Challenge (NHC) committee was born. Approved by the NCA Board of Directors on November 3, 1996, the NHC was established with one clear purpose: to raise funds in support of health research for our beloved breed. The following year, the NCA Charitable Trust was formally organized as a 501(c)(3), providing the structure to manage funding for health research, rescue, and scholarships. To date, more than \$1 million has been raised through donations, estate trusts, will designations, and bequests to the NCA Charitable Trust — a testament to the generosity of Newfoundland fanciers across the country.

From those early days, the work grew steadily and meaningfully. The Newfoundland Endowment Fund was established within the NCA Charitable Trust to provide ongoing support for breed health research, and a Research Advisory Committee was formed to evaluate and recommend grant funding. Under Mary Jane's stewardship, the NCA CT also partnered with the Canine Health Foundation (CHF) and OFA to develop a comprehensive Newfoundland Health Survey, updated every five years, that continues to inform our understanding of the breed's health landscape. Mary Jane has served as Chair of the NHC and as a member of the Charitable Trust Management Board continuously since 1997 — and at this year's National Specialty, she is stepping down after more than 30 years of unwavering dedication. A recipient of both the Isabel Kurth Award and Honorary Membership from the Newfoundland Club of America, Mary Jane's legacy is woven into every health study funded, every grant awarded, and every Newfoundland whose life has been improved by this work.

From the NCA Charitable Trust, the NCA Board of Directors, and Newfoundland fanciers and owners everywhere — thank you, Mary Jane, for your extraordinary



Kikuko Chang Takes the Helm at Health Challenge

Kikuko Chang's life with Newfoundlands began in 2002, when she and her husband attended a water test hosted by the Northern California Newfoundland Club. That day proved fateful — she met Luise Persons of Fogbank Kennel and Pam Rubio of Capriccio Kennel, and in 2003 welcomed Louie, her first Newfoundland,

into her home.

At the time, Kikuko simply wanted a dog who could swim with her. She didn't yet appreciate the significance of a well-bred Newfoundland — but Louie would teach her. Shortly after bringing him home, the family relocated from California to New Hampshire and joined the Newfoundland Club of New England (NCNE). Louie, blessed with an excellent pedigree and robust health, lived to age 14 and never required anything beyond routine veterinary care. His long, healthy life opened the door to everything the breed has to offer, and Kikuko dove in.

Her background brought a unique depth to that journey. A licensed veterinarian in Japan with a master's degree in science, she spent several years as a veterinary technician at an emergency hospital. Over more than two decades, she has shared her life with 11 Newfoundlands and produced several litters — some thriving, others facing health challenges including cruciate ligament rupture, bloat, Cushing's disease, and lymphoma, all conditions that have appeared on the NCA Charitable Trust's research agenda. That firsthand experience with both the joys and heartbreaks of the breed has shaped her commitment to improving Newfoundland health.

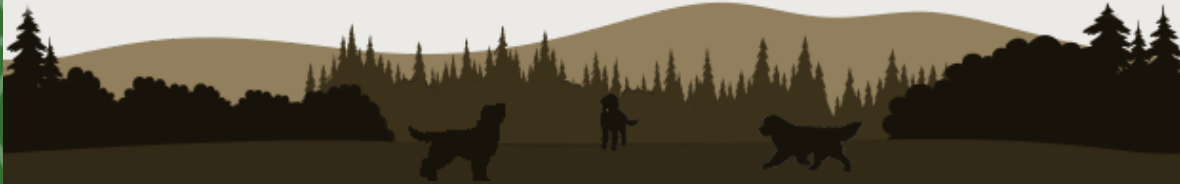
Kikuko has served as Working Dog Committee Chair and board member for NCNE, as a member of the NCA Health and Longevity Committee, and as an organizer of her local all-breed kennel club's annual health clinic. She is also a water test judge and active exhibitor in both working and conformation events.

Now, as the incoming NCA Health Challenge Chair, Kikuko is honored to carry forward the work that Mary Jane Speckman and Jan Boggio began nearly 30 years ago. She invites the entire NCA community to join her in making a meaningful difference for the breed we all love.



Planned Giving

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



NCA Charitable Trust

We are a 501(c)(3) Public Trust

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