

Dog Sports

There are many dog sports that people can enjoy with their dogs. Some are historically known as activities for Newfs (carting, water rescue and tracking) and others are activities that are not traditionally done by Newfs but are fun options to try! Just because you might not have a Newf does not mean that you can't try carting and water rescue!

Carting/Draft

Draft Work Canadian Titles earned: DD (Draft Dog) & DDX (Draft Dog Excellent)

Carting is something that can be done and enjoyed by anyone willing to take the time to learn. A properly trained dog who happily does his work, is a joy to behold. If you decide you would like to learn how to cart your dog you should speak with your breeder as they may be able to advise you or put you in touch with someone that could help.

You cannot do any serious carting with your dog till he is at least 1 year of age. In the mean time plan on attending carting workshops that are being held in your area and talk to other people that are involved in carting regarding the types of harnesses available, as many are adjustable depending on the size of your dog.

You will find that once you and your dog have learned to cart safely it will be an activity that you will both have fun participating in. You can earn a draft dog title, march in parades, get involved in charity events for children giving them cart rides, the smiles it will bring will make it well worth the effort. It is not unheard of, for a Newfoundland to begin training as late as six years of age or older.

<http://www.condcc.ca/index.php/breed-info/working-your-newfoundland/>

Carts and Harnesses: <http://www.wilczekwoodworks.com/>

Carts and Harnesses: <https://www.dogworks.com/>

Carts : <http://www.draftcartsfordogs.com/Work.html>

Build your own cart :

<https://www.puppleaks.com/why-not-build-a-dog-cart/>

<https://simplyfordogs.com/dog-cart/fun-doggie-diy-build-dog-cart/>

<https://www.make-and-build-dog-stuff.com/build-a-pvc-dog-cart.html>

<https://www.make-and-build-dog-stuff.com/dog-cart-plans.html>

Water Work

Canadian Titles earned: WRD (Water Rescue Dog) WRDX (Water Rescue Dog Excellent)

The Newfoundland is the ultimate water dog. They have a water resistant double coat that allows them to swim in cold water. Their deep chest and large lung capacity allows them to swim for a long distances. The dog's well muscled tail acts as a rudder and their swimming style resembles the breast stroke more than the dog paddle.

In Europe, the lifesaving abilities the Newfoundland is widely recognized and they are used to patrol the beaches with the lifeguards. The French Coast Guard has determined that a well conditioned Newf can tow an inflatable life raft full of people two miles to shore without being unduly stressed.

The lifesaving instincts of the Newf can often be seen when his family is in the water. The Newf fearing for the safety of the children will be seen swimming circles around his charges, trying to "herd" them to shore.

Not all Newfoundlands take to the water the first time they are introduced to it, but with care and understanding, a Newf can begin water rescue instruction at four months of age. Teamwork is the basis for this and all other training you will do with your dog. The Newf can be taught to retrieve objects from the water, tow a boat to shore, rescue a drowning victim and at the senior level, jump off a boat to save someone.

In the late 1800's the first formal testing of their water rescue capabilities was done in England. In Canada, the official testing has been done since the early 1980's.

To encourage the working abilities of the Newfoundland, the Newfoundland Dog Club of Canada sponsors W.R.D. (Water Rescue Dog) tests and W.R.D.X. (Water Rescue Dog Excellent) tests across Canada.

Whether you decide to train your Newfoundland for water rescue work or just want to have fun with him at the lake, never leave young children and your dog unattended in or near the water.

<http://www.condcc.ca/index.php/breed-info/working-your-newfoundland/>

Tracking

Canadian Titles earned: TD (Tracking Dog) TDX (Tracking Dog Excellent)

Newfoundlands make particularly good tracking dogs, as they have what is commonly referred to as "a wet mouth". This enables them to take and hold a scent well. Once your dog learns how to track, be prepared to hang on for dear life as he/she will lean hard into the harness with great strength, being totally focused and anxious to work. During training, don't be surprised if your dog is so eager to track, that you are pulled along faster than you may be prepared for. Newfoundlands are keen, and almost nothing will entice them off a track once they begin.

In competition, a dog must be at least six months of age and registered with the CKC. In a tracking test, the dog is kept on a three to fifteen metre leash, and must find a leather article no larger than a pocket book or a glove, which has been dropped by a tracklayer on a designated track. A tracklayer is someone who is a stranger to the dog and who has held the article long enough to allow his/her scent to permeate it. An area of about one square meter is trampled and stood upon by the tracklayer for one minute, and then he/she proceeds along a designated track and drops the assigned article directly onto the track. No track will cross a body of water, and there is no time limit, provided the dog is working.

<http://www.condcc.ca/index.php/breed-info/working-your-newfoundland/>

Backpacking

The Newfoundland is well suited for backpacking. Their heavy double coat serves as protection against the straps and bulk of a load. This enables the Newfoundland to carry a load in most types of weather. Some basic training is essential, and the usual position for a packing dog is behind its owner. Most people take their dogs backpacking because they enjoy their companionship. You can buy ready-made backpacks or make your own. Be sure it fits properly, does not restrict movement, will remain in place, is durable and comes on and off easily. Get your dog used to outings as early as three to six months of age, and begin training to wear an empty backpack by eight or nine months. Wait until your dog is mature before using full loads and remember it is important to load the pack evenly for equal distribution of weight. You can expect to put in many hours of pre-trail training, which involves getting your dog used to carrying, learning to stay behind you, and getting used to hiking and swimming. Initial training periods should be kept under thirty minutes.

As with all dogs who enter the wilderness, your Newfoundland should be taught not to chase after wildlife.

<http://www.condcc.ca/index.php/breed-info/working-your-newfoundland/>

Dock Diving

Dock diving, or dock jumping as it is also known, is a fun sport in which dogs compete in jumping for distance or height from a dock into a pool or body of water.

Big Air[®] is a “long jump for dogs”. The dog, which may be placed anywhere on the 40’ dock, runs and jumps into the water after a throw toy (provided by the handler) is tossed. The distance is judged from the end of the dock to where the tail set of the dog breaks the water’s surface.

Speed Retrieve[®] is a “timed event”. At the far end of the pool a bumper toy is suspended 2” above the water with a starting indicator light above it. The dog is then placed at the 20’ white starting mark on the dock, when the light turns green the handler releases the dog, the time clock stops when the dog has pulled the toy from the Speed Retrieve[™] bracket.

Extreme Vertical[®] is a “high jump” for dogs. The dog starts off at the 20’ mark on the dock & jumps up to grab a bumper toy extended out 8’ from the end of the dock over the water. The starting height for **Extreme Vertical**[®] is 4’6” & goes up in 2” increments as competition progresses.

<https://dockdogs.com/>

Rally

Rally Obedience is a fun dog obedience sport, open to ALL dogs, purebred or mixed breed, pets or titled champions as well as physically challenged dogs and/or handlers.

Rally Obedience goes beyond basic heeling by interspersing over forty obedience movements with the sits, turns and paces of traditional heeling. It also requires a brisk pace, positive attitude and happy demeanor.

CARO <https://www.canadianrallyo.ca/page/Welcome>

CKC <https://www.ckc.ca/en/Events/Overview-of-Events/Rally-Obedience-Trials>

Freestyle – “Dancing” with your dog

CanineFreestyle DogWork® is a performance activity for dog and human teams. Teams train movement behaviors technically, creatively and artistically. The objective is to illustrate the delight of working as a team and to participate with others in a friendly environment learning to craft DogWork Presentations. Each unique Presentation offers a perception of the team's training journey artistically and creatively. The fun is in learning to be free; to choose which doors to open and discover the joyful dynamics of learning to move as one expressing movement as a language. Each team's Presentation is an expression of their work; crafted by their creative choices to visually illustrate what the dog does best.

CanineFreestyle DogWork is designed to develop teams to reach their highest potential technically, creatively and artistically. Teams train as one to move forward, sideward, backward and around, to work on the right and/or left sides relative to three reference positions. Movements may be expressed in stillness; appearing as if the movement has been caught between coming and going. Movements may also move, in and through the Presentation Space, rhythmically focused on the dog or the team. Training, artistically and creatively, develops teams as finely tuned instruments, capable of expressing any safe trainable movement effortlessly with a smooth and easy flow. Each Presentation is unique; designs express each team differently in:

1. Focusing movement rhythmically with a BPM (beats per minute) relationship to the musical choice
2. crafting performance vehicles choreographically with imagination
3. choices to express movement as a medium creatively and artistically
4. artistry and creativity to fulfill the definition and objectives of the competitive discipline

<https://www.canine-freestyle.org/>

Obedience

Being extremely intelligent and always willing to please, the Newfoundland makes a great partner in Obedience Work. There are several titles which you and your dog can work towards earning, by entering Trials sanctioned by the Canadian Kennel Club.

Newfoundland puppies can begin obedience classes at four months of age. Teaching your dog is very rewarding as he learns to do the things you ask of him, but it takes at least 1/2 an hour of training a day. Contact an All Breed Club or Obedience School in your area for the availability of classes. Always remember, an obedient dog is welcome anywhere.

<http://www.condcc.ca/index.php/breed-info/working-your-newfoundland/>

Scent Detection

Sporting Detection is the fun and competitive version of scent detection such as for narcotics, termites or explosives, and is also known as “nosework”. SDDA competitions use legal scents that are easily purchased and stored by the average person. The dog must locate any and all hidden target scents within a designated area and alert the handler to the location. It is a true partnership sport in which both ends of the leash must rely on one another.

<https://www.sportingdetectiondogs.ca/>

Barn Hunt

The purpose of Barn Hunt is to sharpen and develop a dog's natural hunting ability through nosework in finding and marking rats in a setting similar to what you would find in a barn.

<http://www.canadabarnhunts.com/>

NOTE: There is no risk to the rats used in this sport. They are safely contained and are well socialized with dogs.

Agility

Agility is fast moving, challenging and energetic activity enjoyed immensely by dogs and handlers alike. It's also a great spectator sport. Dogs work off lead and are guided by the signals and voice commands of their handlers. They speed around an intricate course over or through a variety of obstacles, including jumps, tunnels, weave poles, even a teeter totter and must complete the course cleanly, within the time allowed. Agility is open to all breeds, and since dogs are grouped according to size, with appropriate jump height and speed requirements for each size range, every dog has the same chance to excel, whether he's short and stocky or tall and lean.

CKC <https://www.ckc.ca/en/Events/Overview-of-Events/Agility>

Fly Ball

Flyball is a dog relay competition. Teams of four dogs race each other over a set of hurdles to retrieve a tennis ball. It is a game played by high-energy dogs that love to chase balls. It is an exciting race for dogs and is the fastest growing dog sport in North America.

A flyball team consists of four dogs and their handlers, plus up to two alternate dogs and handlers and a box loader. All breeds, including mixed-breeds can play and compete.

In competition, two flyball teams compete against each other in two racing lanes side by side approximately 15 feet apart. The racing lane is 51 feet down and 51 feet back. Each lane contains four jumps, called hurdles, that are set 10 feet apart with the last hurdle being 15 feet from the flyball box.

The jump heights are calculated by subtracting four inches from the height at the withers of the shortest dog on the team. The minimum jump height is eight inches and the maximum is sixteen. There is typically a staging area of at least 50 feet behind the start/finish line to line up the dogs and give them enough room to get a running start.

A flyball box is a wedge shaped box with a spring-loaded front that releases a tennis ball when a dog steps on it — hence the name "Flyball."

<https://flyball.org/>

Disc Dogs

The sport of canine frisbee, or disc dog, is growing rapidly. Some dog and disc teams perform freestyle routines with multiple discs. Advanced freestyle canines perform such moves as back flips, chest vaults and back vaults. Vaults require the dog to launch himself off the trainer into the air catching the disc in mid-flight.

<https://www.canadiandiscdogs.com/home>

Skijoring/Mountainboard-joring/Skatejoring/Bikejoring/Canicross

Skijoring is a Scandinavian word meaning "ski-driving". It involves a skier being pulled by a dog in harness. This sport has expanded to include dogs pulling their humans on mountainboards (rugged off road skateboards), skateboards, bikes, rollerblades and while running (canicross).

<http://www.canadasguidetodogs.com/clubs/skijoring2.htm>

Lure Coursing

In simple terms, coursing means to run or race after something. Lure coursing is a simulation of a rabbit (the lure) in flight from predators (the hounds) who chase after it. For humanitarian reasons, live rabbits have been replaced by white plastic bags which are moved through the coursing field by means of a special string at ground level with pulleys controlling the direction. The lure makes sudden turns, veers off in various directions, and often does the unexpected as a rabbit would if pursued. Hence, you will often hear handlers telling their hounds to "get the bunny." The object is for the hounds to course the "bunny" until it completes the pre-determined pattern at which point they are allowed to catch it. A lure operator ensures that the lure always stays slightly ahead of the dogs until the course ends.

<http://www.csfa.info/>

Fast Cat – Coming soon to Canada

The purpose of the American Kennel Club's Fast CAT event is to provide all dogs and their owners with an enjoyable and healthy activity in which they can participate and compete. During the FAST CAT event the dogs individually run a 100 yard dash. The dog's times are then converted into miles per hour. Dogs can earn points based on their own individual handicapped speed and those points are accumulated for the different titles earned.