

# YOU BE THE JUDGE

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From *Dogs in Canada*, January 1991

## THE NEWFOUNDLAND

The key is in the colour.

Colour markings play a part in your selection of first, second, third and fourth place in this class of eight Newfoundland males. If you are not familiar with preferred and acceptable Newfoundland colour markings and to what extent they are penalized, you may wish to read the paragraphs on colour before selecting your four winners.

### COLOUR

Blacks may appear as solid colours or as solid colours with white at any, some, or all of the following locations: chin, chest, toes and tip of tail. White found at these locations is acceptable. (Grey is an accepted solid colour in the USA but not in Britain; neither brown nor grey are accepted in Canada). Black may be tinged with bronze in all countries.

Newfs having a white base coat (Landseer) with black markings ideally have a solid black head, or black with white on muzzle, with or without a blaze. There should be a separate black saddle, and black on the rump extending on to a white tail.

It is important to know that beauty of markings should be considered only when comparing dogs of otherwise comparable quality, and never at the expense of type, structure and soundness.

### FIRST PLACE

Dog G's abundance of white on the chin, chest, toes and tip of tail may have disturbed you if you were not aware that any amount of white found at these four locations is acceptable.

His black head is massive, with a broad skull, slightly arched crown and strongly developed occiput (upper, back point of skull). The slope of stop is moderate but, because of a well-developed brow, appears abrupt in profile. His clean-cut muzzle is broad and deep. He has a scissor bite.

His dark brown eyes are relatively small, deep-set, and spaced wide apart. Eyelids fit closely. His ears are small and triangular with rounded tips. They are set well back on the skull, level with or slightly above the brow, and lie close to the head. His forehead and face are smooth and free of wrinkles. The top of his muzzle is rounded when viewed head-on; the bridge is straight when viewed in profile.

His neck is strong and sets well on to sloping, muscular shoulders. The length of his neck is proportionate to his body and head – long enough for proud head carriage.

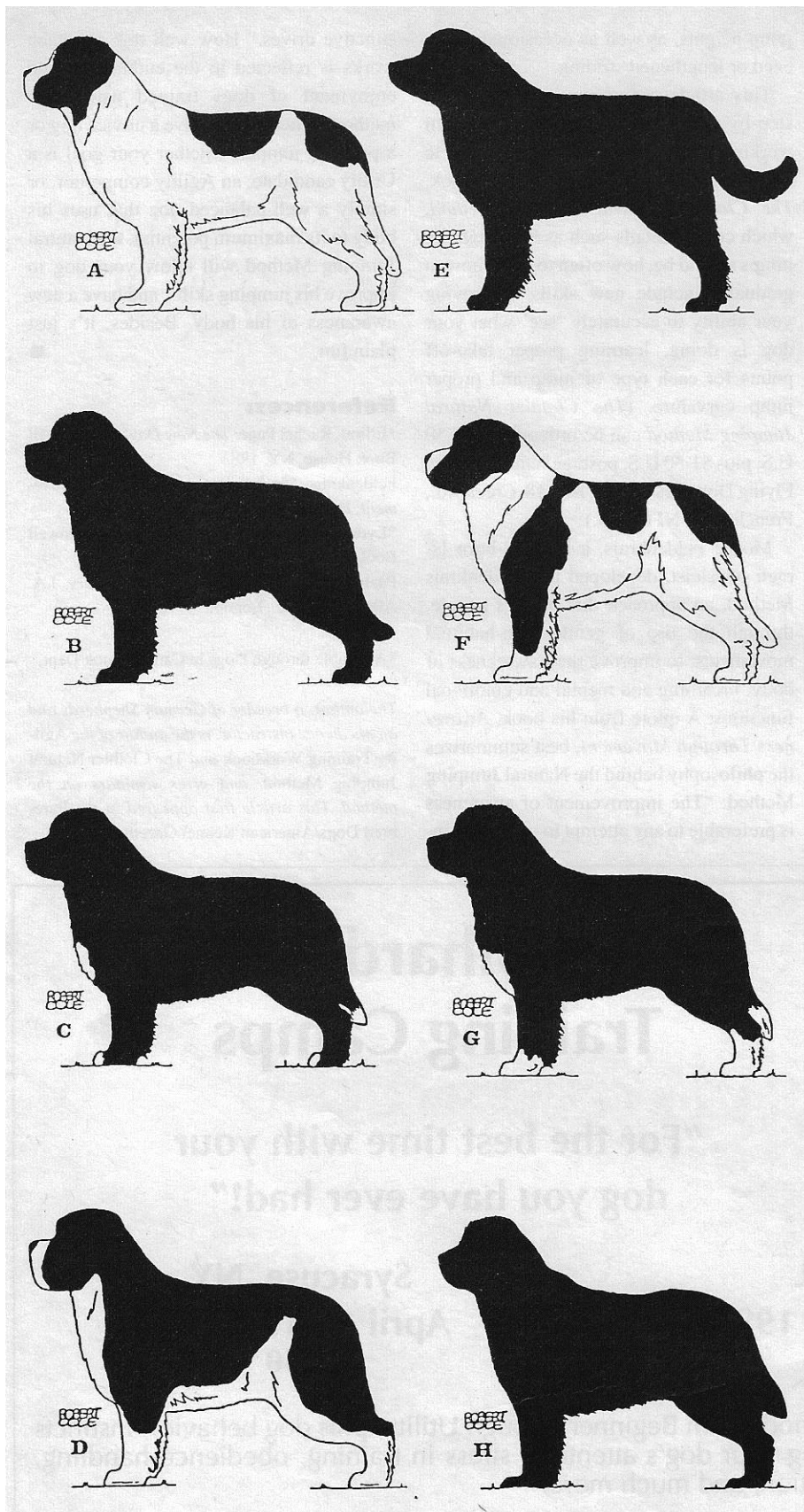
He weighs 140 lbs., and his body is slightly longer than his average, 28 inch height. His chest extends in front of the point of shoulder and reaches down to the elbows. The elbows lie directly below the highest point of the withers. The distance from elbow to ground (not brisket to ground) equals about half his height. The distance from brisket to ground is slightly less than body depth. His front pasterns are strong and slope slightly.

Rear assembly is powerful, muscular, and heavily boned. Viewed from the side, his thighs are broad and fairly long. Stifles and hocks are well bent, and the rear pasterns position perpendicular.

### SECOND PLACE

This mismarked Landseer has a length of neck shorter than I consider ideal. In all other ways, second-place Dog F is identical to first-place Dog G, and the following comments apply to both.

His back is strong, broad and muscular and is level from just behind the withers to the croup. His flank is deep. The croup is broad and slopes slightly.



Tail set follows the natural line of the croup. His tail is of moderate length, the bone reaching the hock. It is broad at the base, and is strong, and hangs down with a slight curve at the end.

A swimmer, this Newf's feet are webbed, proportionally large, and cat foot in type. Dew claws on the front feet and the hind feet have been removed (they may be removed on front, and should be removed on hind).

His head is massive. His deep muzzle is not as long from the stop to the occiput. The top of his muzzle in profile is slightly arched (it may be straight or slightly arched). He has a pincer bite (it may be pincer or scissor).

When his ear is brought forward, it reaches to the corner of his small, dark brown eye on the same side. His expression is soft and reflects the characteristics of the breed: benevolence, intelligence, and dignity. Sweetness of temperament is the hallmark of the Newfoundland; this is the most important single characteristic of the breed.

### THIRD AND FOURTH

My choice for third place is between solid black Dog B and ideally marked, black-with-white Dog C. Both are sound and balanced front with rear; each departs from typical in a single but different way.

Dog B is long in body (not loin), and Dog C's legs are shorter than ideal. They present two quite different outlines stacked in profile. If either had light eyes, large eyes, or droopy haws, you might be influenced and put up the other. You might be influenced to put up the other dog if either had a kink in his tail, or two dropped lower incisors (a mouth problem found in many specimens of the breed).

But their only difference is: Dog B's body is long to the same degree that Dog C's legs are short. In terms of degrees, their height-to-body length ratio is the same, even though one is taller and longer. However, in addition to their balance being different, their working ability as draught and water dogs is also different – one due to a long body and the other due to short legs. I chose long-bodied Dog B for third place and short-legged Dog C for fourth place.

#### **DOG D**

This mismark cannot be clearly defined as either solid colour with white, or Landseer. If classes are divided, he could be shown in either class, or penalized to the extent of the deviation (but not at the expense of type and soundness).

His head and hindquarters are both overdone. He has excess stop and loose flews; not visible, he has excess wrinkle, loose eyes and long ears. He is imbalanced; his hindquarters are over-angulated, the second thigh is too long.

#### **DOG E**

His long muzzle suggests weakness. His occipital bone is not strongly developed. His long, rather than moderate, length of leg greatly disturbs balance. His sacrum is level, forcing the tail to set on high; when this dog trots, his tail is carried higher than the horizontal.

He is well angulated front and rear. He is impressively tall. He has a correct flat, coarse, water-resistant, double coat that tends to fall back into place when rubbed against the nap. The bronze in his coat is not penalized.

#### **DOG A**

This white Landseer has ideal black markings; black head, with white muzzle and blaze, separate black saddle, and black on rump extending on to a white tail. Ticking is minimal.

He has a long shoulder blade and upper arm, but the shoulder blade is steep. This causes the upper arm to adopt a horizontal position, and forces the elbow rearward on the body. The heavy front then appears to lean forward and the front pasterns break down. His good hindquarters contribute toward further imbalance.

#### **DOG H**

His faulty short muzzle tilts downward. His shoulder blade is steep, his upper arm short and steep, forcing the assembly forward on the body, reducing forechest. His front pasterns are perpendicular, and the feet, though well webbed, are flat. His topline is slack. His tail is short.

#### **DISQUALIFICATIONS**

Disqualifications for the Newfoundland are: bad temperament; short, flat coat (Labrador Retriever type); markings of any colour other than white on a black dog; and colour other than the traditional black, or Landseer.