

FRIENDS OF NEWFS IN ACTION EXPLAINED

Our Friends of Newfs in Action (FONIA) was set up to enable us to share the love of this breed with more people than our full membership could cope with. This document is designed to help interested newcomers understand what becoming a member of FONIA entails.

Stage 1 Attend training sessions with members of the Club

Stage 2 Become a member of FONIA

Stage 3 Become a full member of NIA

Stage 1

Newcomers and their dog(s) attend a number of training sessions on land or in the water with members of the Club. This gives them the opportunity to see what the Club has to offer and whether they and their dog are going to enjoy it.

Stage 2

Newcomers may be invited to join the FONIA section of the Club. This enables them to experience the Club without the commitment required from a full member and for both parties to get to know each other. This is reflected in a significantly reduced membership fee. As explained in our Constitution, FONIA do not have any voting rights in the Club and renewal is by invitation on an annual basis.

The Club has a very small full membership and spaces are only offered when they become available. Unfortunately, as we have

small training venues and limited time, we have to keep our full membership to a manageable number.

When there is a full membership space available, the committee review many aspects before offering this space to a FONIA including for example, contribution to the Club, ability to commit to the expectations of a full member and the fit with other dogs for display purpose etc.

Stage 3

Full membership is not automatic and is by invitation only. A minimum period of one year as a FONIA must normally have been served before an invitation is given for full membership.

Training

- Winter training – As these sessions are generally held in public places, we can normally accommodate everyone. However, there may be occasions when winter training is for full members only, if for example, we are practising for block work displays etc.
- Summer training – Our summer training venues have limited spaces available, both in terms of vehicles and the number of dogs that we can accommodate at any one session. Each dog is given an individual slot of time in the water. Spaces available are allocated to full members first and then on a rotational basis to FONIA depending on the Club's needs for displays etc.

We do try and include children in our sessions but we must stress that this is a dog club first and foremost. We have a separate policy regarding children but please note our training venues in the

summer have NO facilities and children must be under adult supervision at all times.

Displays

As you are aware, displays are the main part of our Club and our training is focussed to this end. We try throughout the display season to incorporate all FONIA in at least one display. However, this is by invitation only and is dependent on which dogs of full members are participating and what the needs of the display are.

Due to our insurance requirements, we cannot have everyone with their dogs at every display.

Anyone taking part in a NIA display is expected to spend time grooming their dog so that they look neat and tidy and train their dog appropriately for the display item.

Camping at displays is generally for full members only. Occasionally, we have been able to accommodate some FONIA but this is the exception rather than the norm.

Annual fun weekend

We hold an annual fun weekend at the end of August and we encourage everyone to take part in this event. This is an excellent opportunity for everyone to come together to get to know each other and celebrate the end of the display season.

Our commitment to you

Our Club is here to promote the Newfoundland breed and we will do our very best to support you and your dog. Please do not be offended if we cannot accommodate you at every session. We will

do our utmost to enable you to take part in as many activities as possible. Not every activity suits every member and this is about finding out what you and your dog enjoy doing together safely. Help and support is always available and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to raise them with one of the officers of the Club.