

THE NEWFOUNDLAND DOG – aka “NEWFIE - The Gentle Giant”



The Newfoundland dog was originally bred and used as a working dog for fishermen in Newfoundland. They can be either black, brown, or white-and-black. Newfoundland dogs are known for their giant size, intelligence, tremendous strength, calm dispositions, and loyalty. They excel at water rescue, because of their strong build and double coat, and their webbed paws make them strong swimmers.

The Newfoundland is one of the heaviest dogs, with the heaviest recorded at 260lbs;

STAMP ISSUES. The dog first appeared on Newfoundland postage stamps in 1887 - a ½ cent, rose-red stamp. Other versions were issued in 1894 and 1896 in Black and Orange Vermillion respectively.



RESCUE AT SEA

1919 saw a dramatic rescue credited to a Newfoundland called “Tang”. The coastal steamer SS Ethie ran ashore on the west coast of Newfoundland during a storm. Reports from passengers on SS Ethie, tell that “Tang” swam to the ship with a rope, which was then used to establish a breeches buoy. The dog was a powerful swimmer and able to tolerate the cold water. All 92 persons on the ship were rescued.

THE LEGEND OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND AND NAPOLEON BONAPARTE

During his escape from exile on the isle of Elba, Napoleon's small boat hit rough seas and Napoleon was thrown overboard. Legend has it that a fisherman's dog, a Newfoundland, jumped into the sea and kept Napoleon afloat until rescuers arrived.

An interesting legend, but the question is : How did a Newfoundland dog come to be in the Mediterranean in the early 19th century?

STAMP ISSUES. The 1932 definitive issue, which, among others, featured Edward VIII as the Prince of Wales and Elizabeth II as a young Princess, also including the Newfoundland dog on the 14 cent stamp.



STAMP ISSUES. To commemorate the Coronation of George VI, Newfoundland issued two sets; firstly the Omnibus issue of three stamps and, on the same date, a set of 11 values, from 1 cent to 48 cents.

Again the 14 cent stamp showed the Newfoundland dog – the same picture as above, with a portrait of George VI alongside.



NEWFOUNDLAND STOPPED ISSUING STAMPS IN 1949.

IT WAS THE LAST OF THE CANADIAN PROVINCES TO JOIN THE
DOMINION OF CANADA