



Rip's Second Chance by Darby Barker

Basking in the fun and excitement following the Newfoundland Club of America's National Specialty, we were on our drive home when we received the call we receive far too often. There was a Newfoundland in need.

On one of the first really hot days in May, left tied to a park fence, was a sick and weak Newfoundland.

Fortunately for this boy, he did not go unnoticed. The local animal control agency picked him up and posted him on their social media to try to find the human that "forgot about their dog they left tied to a fence". The animal control officer contacted us for assistance, should the owner not be found. After 4 grueling days of the mandatory hold this boy came into the arms of the NCA Rescue – no name, sick, and defeated.

As per our usual process, Rip was immediately scheduled for veterinary exams. The care he would need would quickly escalate for widespread skin infection, dental issues so severe his age could not be estimated, several tumors covering his thin frame, and to put an exclamation point on his health issues he was found to be heartworm positive. In his deepest moment of need, the people Rip trusted with his life chose to tie him to a park fence and walk away... without even granting him the ability to seek shelter, water, or food on his own.

Once again, our trusted veterinary team at SugarCreek Veterinary Clinic devised a plan to treat Rip. Being HW+ very much complicated the ability to remove and biopsy tumors. Through consultations with a cardiologist, Dr. Aaron was able to identify a sedation medication that would safely allow for Rip to be anesthetized for surgery. A tumor the size of a baseball was removed from Rip's shoulder, along with several smaller tumors. We waited, holding our breath for the biopsy results. After 7 long days, we received the call that allowed us all to exhale. Benign results meant we could look ahead to the next mountain.

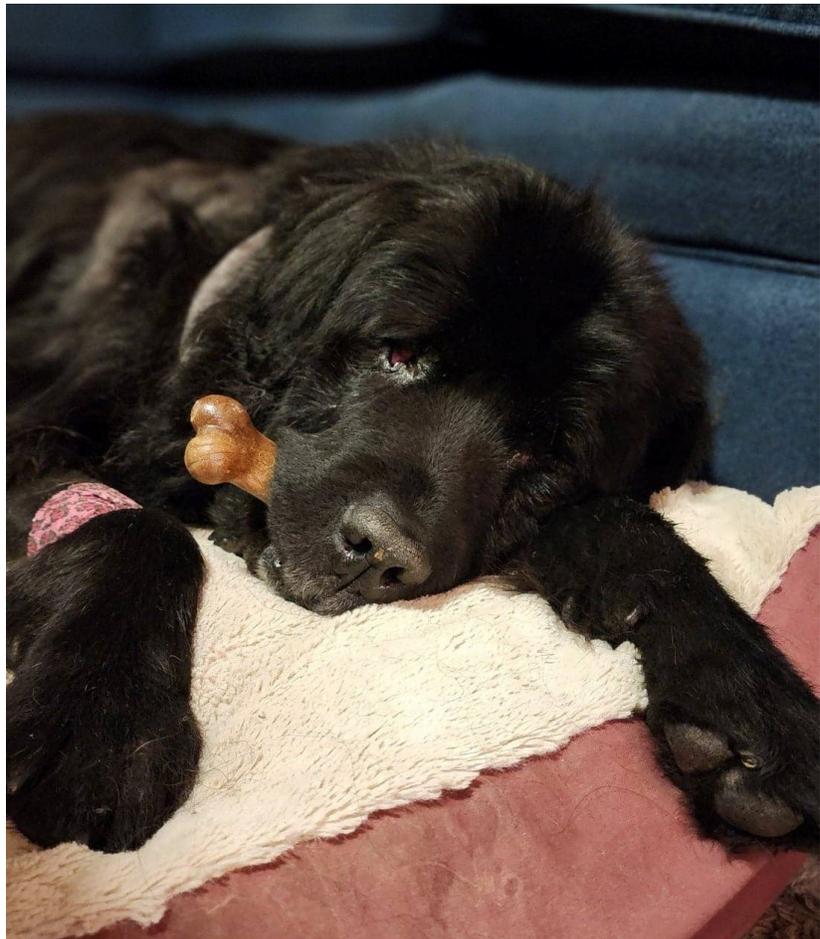
The treatment for a staph infection on his skin and surgery would be the easy part of Rip's journey as he still stood at the base of the mountain that is heartworm treatment. This would be a long and dangerous journey. Heartworm treatment is a very difficult and delicate process that has many short-term and potentially long-term, deadly or life

altering side effects. Rip's foster caregiver would have to remain extremely vigilant throughout his care to ensure he was following strict doctor's orders. A heartworm could have easily broken loose and killed him. The first round of treatment came and went, then the second round of treatment. Again, left holding our breath we finally got the news ... a negative heartworm test.

After successfully navigating heartworm treatment, Rip had additional tumors that were discovered and needed treatment. Once again, we found ourselves anxiously waiting for results. And once again, we would get to celebrate a win for the dog that would no longer be defeated

Through all of this, he has maintained his quintessential Newfie personality. Always looking for a hand for a scratch or stuffy toy to carry, Rip's future is now full of love and care. We often speculate about the memories a dog holds of their life before rescue. In some cases, you hope they remember the love and care they received before entering rescue, in other cases you pray those days are nothing but a blur.

We can hope Rip's last thoughts of his owner tying him to a fence and walking away in his time of need have faded away. The wondering "why are leaving me", "are they coming back", "did I do something wrong", are now replaced with feelings of security and happiness in knowing he is a NCA Rescue family member now and will never be abandoned again.



And why did we choose the name Rip? Anyone who watches the TV series Yellowstone knows the character Rip had a very rough start in life and was saved, only to be offered a second chance. NCA Rescue has offered Rip his second chance at life and the opportunity to live the life he really deserves. We are only able to save a dog like Rip through the generosity of the NCA Rescue Fund donors who funded his care – over \$6,400.00. Thank You!