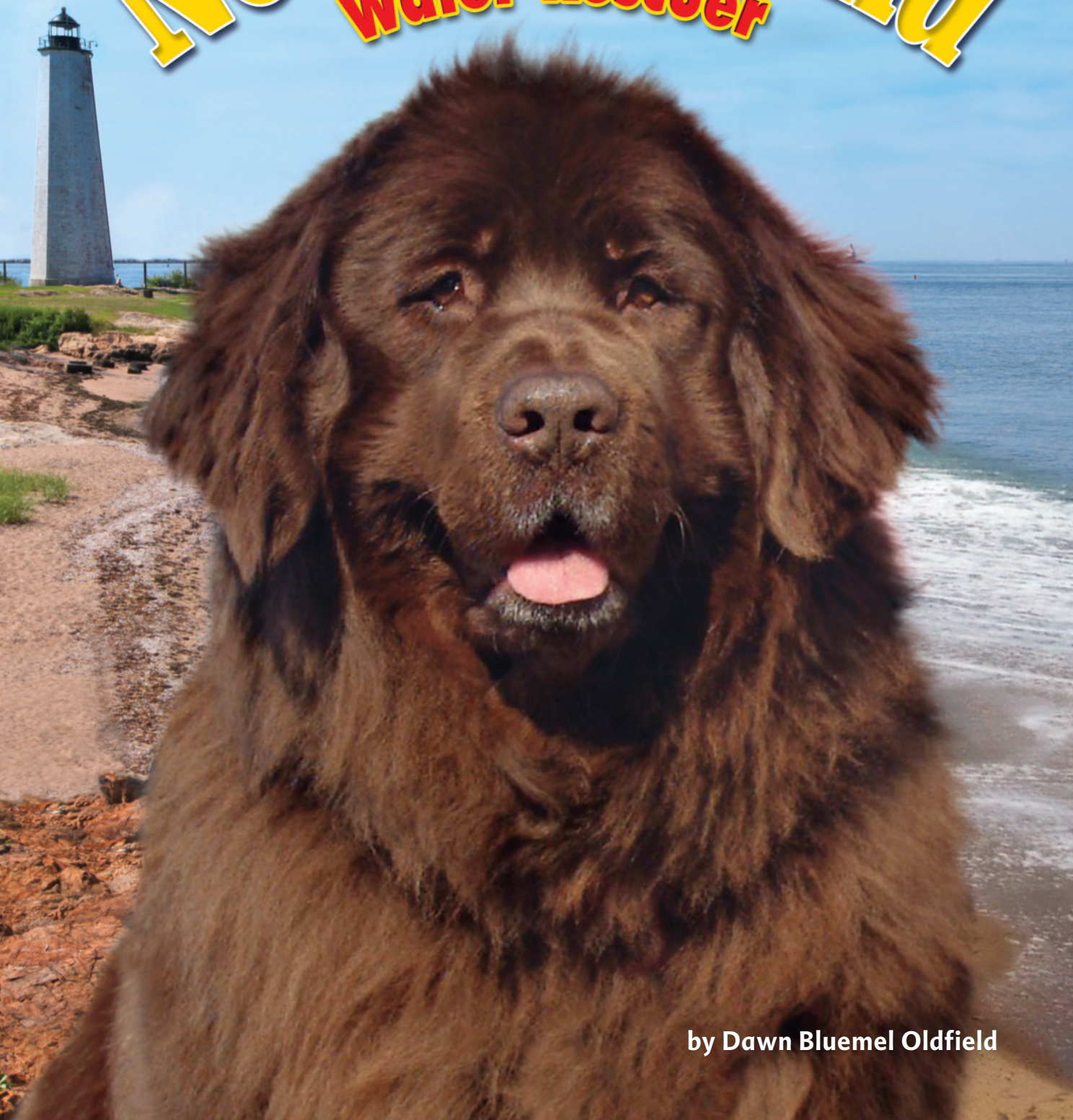




# Newfoundland

## Water Rescuer



by Dawn Bluemel Oldfield

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**by Dawn Bluemel Oldfield**

Consultant: Jim Bricknell  
President, Newfoundland Dog Club of Canada

**BEARPORT**  
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

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Publisher: Kenn Goin

Editorial Director: Adam Siegel

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Design: Dawn Beard Creative

Cover Design: Dawn Beard Creative and Kim Jones

Photo Researcher: Mary Fran Loftus

## *Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

Bluemel Oldfield, Dawn.

Newfoundland : water rescuer / by Dawn Bluemel Oldfield ; Consultant, Jim Bricknell.

p. cm. — (Big dogs rule)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-61772-296-7 (library binding)

ISBN-10: 1-61772-296-0 (library binding)

1. Newfoundland dog—Juvenile literature. I. Title.

SF429.N4B58 2012

636.73—dc23

2011019413

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For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 45 West 21st Street, Suite 3B, New York, New York 10010. Printed in the United States of America in North Mankato, Minnesota.

072011

042711CGF

10987654321





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# Lifeguard Dog

On a summer day in 2007, Bilbo was **patrolling** the beach at Sennen Cove in Cornwall, England. The big Newfoundland watched the water closely. He knew the large, rolling waves of the Atlantic Ocean were dangerous. They could easily drag swimmers below the **surface** and drown them.

On duty, Bilbo ► wears a lifeguard vest with swimming safety messages written on it.



Suddenly, Bilbo saw Lein Snippe start to enter the water to swim. The huge dog, weighing almost 200 pounds (91 kg), tried to block her path. When Lein went in anyway, Bilbo raced into the ocean and swam in front of her.

Lein realized that Bilbo was warning her not to swim there. She said that it was as if he were saying to her, “It’s too dangerous—don’t go in.” Not wanting to risk her life, Lein quickly left the water. Once again, Bilbo’s lifesaving actions showed why Newfoundlands have earned the **breed** the nickname of “lifeguard dog.”

### Bilbo to the rescue

Bilbo became so popular while working at Sennen Cove that a book was written about him. It’s called *The True Story of Bilbo: The Surf Lifeguard Dog*.



# Built for the Job

Newfoundlands such as Bilbo have worked for many years on beaches in Britain, France, and Italy. What makes members of the breed such good lifeguards? For one thing, their bodies are perfect for the job. The giant dogs have strong muscles that allow them to move easily in the water. They can also swim far without getting out of breath because their large **lungs** hold lots of air.



- ▲ Lifeguard Steve Jamieson (above), Bilbo's owner, said his quick-thinking Newfoundland has saved at least three lives while working at the beach.



A Newfoundland's two layers of fur also help it work as a lifeguard. The thick and oily outer **coat** is waterproof, keeping the dog's skin dry in the cold ocean. The soft undercoat helps keep the dog's body warm. A Newfoundland also has **webbed** paws similar to a duck's feet. The extra skin between the toes helps the dog quickly push its body through the water. In addition, the animal uses its long, strong tail to change direction as it swims.



Newfoundlands do not paddle in the water the way most other dogs do. Instead, they move their legs down and out, giving them a powerful swimming **stroke**.

▲ These Newfoundlands work as lifeguards to help keep swimmers in Italy safe.



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## About the Author

Dawn Bluemel Oldfield is a freelance writer. She and her husband live in Prosper, Texas. They love animals and share their home with two fabulous cats and one terrific dog, a Siberian husky named McKenna.



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# Newfoundland

## Water Rescuer

On a bright summer day, Bilbo was patrolling a beach in Cornwall, England. The big Newfoundland dog watched the water closely. He knew that the large, rolling waves could easily drag swimmers below the surface and drown them. Suddenly, Bilbo saw a woman start to enter the water. He raced into the ocean and blocked her way by staying in front of her. Would he be able to stop her from swimming in the dangerous water?

Look inside to find out more about Bilbo and other amazing Newfoundlands—as well as surprising facts about the big dog’s history, its physical appearance, and its personality. It won’t be long until you discover what every Newfoundland owner knows. These aren’t just big dogs—they are also dogs with big hearts!

**German Shepherd**  
Super Smart

**Great Dane**  
Gentle Giant

**Labrador Retriever**  
Most Popular

**Newfoundland**  
Water Rescuer

**Rottweiler**  
Super Courageous

**Saint Bernard**  
Mountain Rescuer

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