



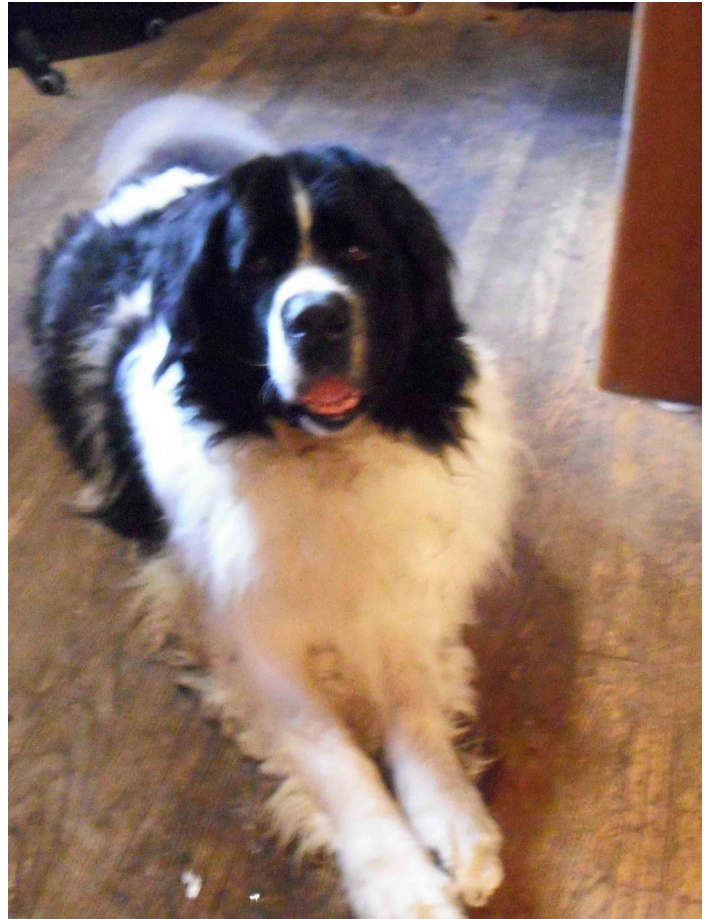
The Secret Spirit

Spirit, whom I initially agreed to foster, literally sprang into our lives when he leaped from the transporter's van in a frantic state of mind. At 8 years old, this huge white and black Newf took me by surprise, and I admit I was a bit intimidated at first. For an old dog, he had the energy and strength of a young stallion. What I found, underneath all the turmoil, was the true heart and soul of a Newfoundland dog. All he wanted was someone to reassure him and show him he was loved.

At first, my 11 year old Newf, Piper, wasn't impressed, but I knew the day she managed a feeble play bow and mock charge, that she wanted Spirit to stay with us. He fit like an old pair of shoes, rediscovered. Comfy, though worn; you know you can't throw them out. Piper didn't have to convince me that we should adopt

him, but her approval was most important to me. And I am eternally grateful to HANR for believing that our humble home was the right match for him.

Each day, Spirit's anxiety has lessened and his bouncy, happy self has come to the surface. While he does have "old dog" medical issues, his delightful, loving personality overcomes any dark shadows lurking in the background. He is the sunshine in my world, greeting each day as though it was his



first. His enthusiasm in catching and he has put a lot of spark in Piper's life, too. We can't imagine life without him, now. "The afternoon knows what the morning never suspected." — Robert Frost.

There is nothing in the world better than adopting a senior dog, even though you didn't have the joy of watching him grow up. What an older dog brings to your world is wisdom, mellowness, and a whole lot of love yet to give. The secret that nearly no one knows...a dog gets more perfect the older he grows.

