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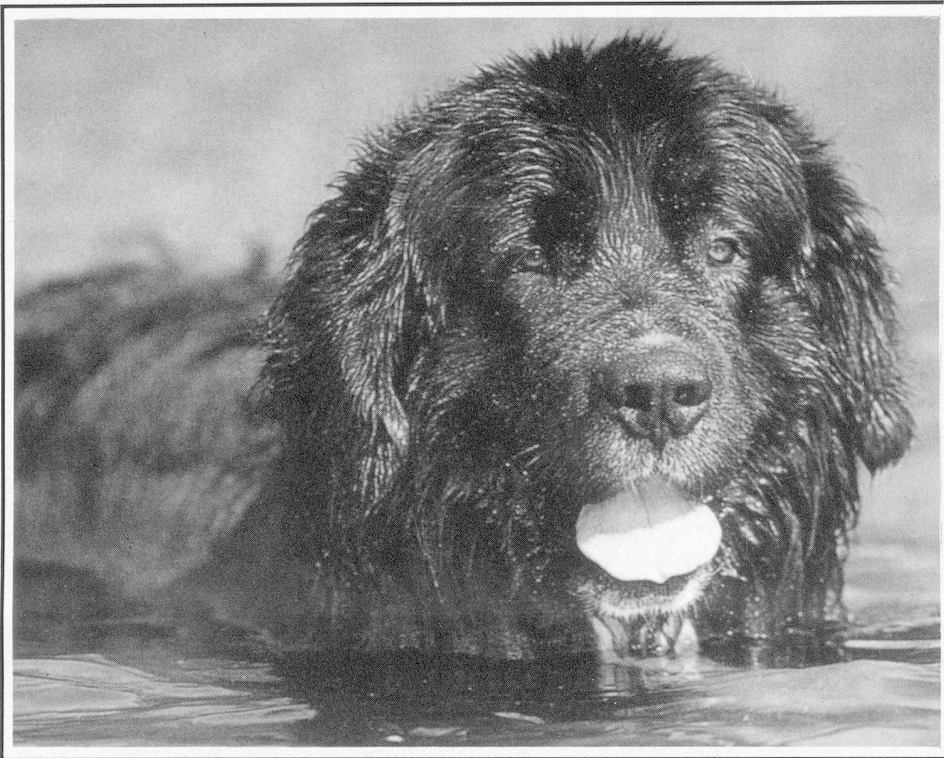
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FOUR LEGGED LIFESAVERS



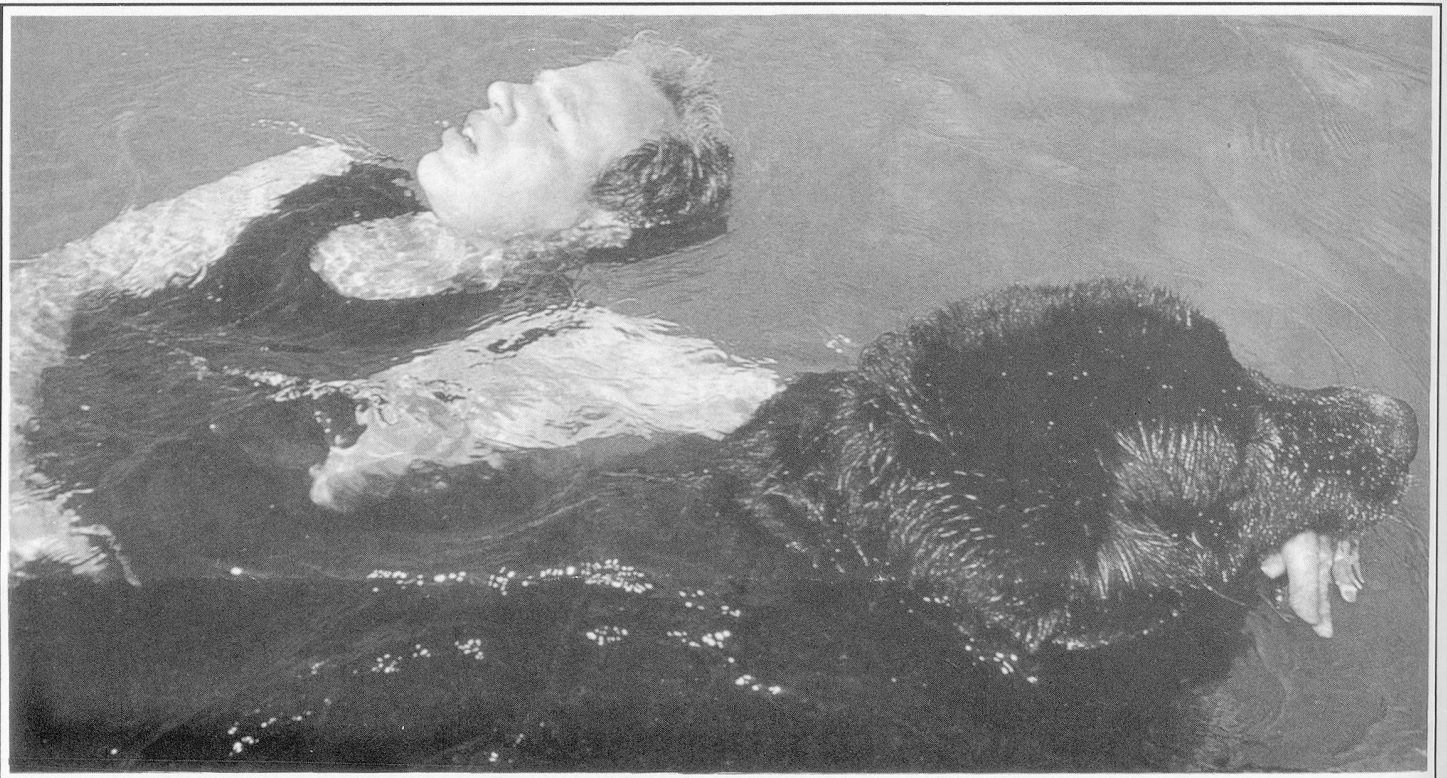
Jester enjoying his dip in the water

"Jester", a Newfoundland dog is Switzerland's new answer to the "Baywatch" pin-ups. Not as good looking, but much more efficient, Jester is the forerunner of a new breed of dogs specially trained to save people from drowning in Swiss lakes.

Newfoundlanders, weighing up to 75 kgs, are excellent swimmers. They do not fear the ice cold water in which they can easily stay for up to two hours without their skin getting wet.

The dogs are trained to swim up to 1 km in distance, to tow a boat and to carefully grab injured or unconscious victims by the arm or hand in order to pull them ashore. Even when a victim thrashes about in total panic and tries to pull the dog under water, the dog remains calm and composed and follows the strict procedure that it was taught in its training.

The various clubs currently training such dogs hope that these dogs will in time become just as famous as their legendary cousins, the Saint Bernards, although for obvious reasons, these lifesaving dogs will not be able to carry with them the famous barrel of spirit around their neck.



Jester in full rescue action. The dog is so well trained that at the end of the rescue, the victim's hand does not even show a scratch.

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