

Big Dogs With Big Hearts Help Holiday Fundraiser

Newfoundland dogs will lend a paw pulling freshly cut Christmas trees in Alden, N.Y.

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Newfoundland dogs will put their size and strength to good use at Ulbrich's Tree Farm and Garden Center's annual fundraiser on Dec. 13 in Alden, N.Y.

During the event, about 20 Newfoundlands will pull sleighs, carriages and wagons of freshly cut Christmas trees for those who make a minimum donation of \$5 to the Alden/Marilla Community Food Pantry.

For about 20 years, Roger Frey, owner of Jolly Roger's Pet Supply in Alden, has teamed up with the garden center for one of their biggest events of the year. Frey is a Newfoundland breeder, and each year he puts out the call for Newfie owners to participate in the charitable event, which he said is like a big party for the colossal canines.

"As soon as you pull out their harness, they get very, very excited," Frey said. "They love to work."

The dogs, which can weigh up to 150 pounds, will be also available for photographs and to take children on sleigh rides. Frey said the dogs can earn between \$300 and \$800 for the food pantry during one afternoon of work.

In addition to the giant Newfoundlands, the event features a visit from Santa Claus, a hot dog roast and art show. Attendees are invited to bring non-perishable food items to donate to the food pantry. Ulbrich's will provide a discount to those who make a food donation.