



Pointers In Need Information Sheet #3

“Rescuing a Pointer” (Basic Info)

March 2022

Pointers In Need (the Charity) will try and match a Pointer with your individual home life set up and requirements. Our co-ordinators will gladly help you with any advice in those early days and throughout the dog's life thereafter.

The “home-check” is the start of the vetting process; the person undertaking the check will have plenty of experience and knowledge of Pointers and will be happy to chat at length about them. Equally, it is important for you to ask as many questions as possible before committing to the breed/adoption.

Please remember when rescuing a Pointer that there will be a period of adjustment for both you and the dog and it is very important to take steps to ease the transition as much as you can. We will guide you through the process. There are additional information sheets available that you might find useful.

The best advice we can give is that these dogs will almost certainly have gone through some recent trauma (abandonment and/or maybe abuse) in their lives, and they just need time, patience and TLC to adjust to their new life and environment.

Upon arrival at home, your Pointer may well be nervous and/or shy. If you already have a dog, try and find an open neutral space, ideally the garden or even the local green to introduce the new dog to your existing dog. There may well be some posturing between the dogs at first; just let them sort themselves out.

Some dogs have only ever lived outside and may find being in a home overwhelming at first. If your dog has already spent time in foster, they will be more familiar with life in a house, and mastered basics such as toilet training. Either way, a new home is stressful, and accidents are not uncommon at first, so please be patient.

Pointers are a breed that will try and please you, so are generally good at adapting to their new environment, as long as their needs are met and what is expected of them is made clear. Please also remember that most of these dogs have been abandoned throughout Europe and as a result, we will have little or no history of them. Some rescues of course simply need to be rehomed because of a change in personal circumstances.

Ex working rescue Pointers will have a high work instinct, so you should be aware of the problems that may exist, particularly with recall. These dogs will have been taught to hunt - in the main birds and rabbits. So, it's highly possible that you will have to deal with “a kill” when you are out with them.

Abandoned dogs survive by foraging for scraps of food. As a result, they may be possessive around food and their eating habits could be considered disgusting to us when out. Anything edible whether rotten or not would have been eaten in their previous life; in a new environment, with regular food, this could still be a difficult habit to break.

Taking on a Pointer in need is a big responsibility. Many won't have experienced love and attention, instead used as nothing more than “a tool” by their previous owner and discarded mainly because of poor hunting ability or their age. They may well take some time to adjust and settle into a new routine/life. But with a little perseverance, in time you will be rewarded with the most loving, loyal and companionable four-legged friend.

Contact the Team for further information, help and advice about Pointers and adopting. We'd love to hear from you, and to be able to help you rescue a wonderful breed of dog.

A success story: "BOB"

When he was found...



Happy, in the UK...



A brief outline story from Bob's rescuer:

Bob was found running along a main road heading towards Pedralba, near Valencia, Spain. When we examined him, he was wearing two collars; one of which contained a name and telephone number. The other was a shock collar and was so tightly fitted I couldn't put one finger between the collar and his neck. He was badly neglected and emaciated and it was clear that the collar had been put on him in that condition!

We were adamant; Bob was not going to be returned to the person responsible for the terrible state he was in. We found his breeder's Facebook page and there we saw Bob featured in photographs looking healthy, and out in the fields running. He appeared to be the main breeding dog. We also discovered his full name: "*Bob de la Benigousse*". We agreed to foster him until he was fit, and then find him a forever home.

When Bob came into our house for the first time, he really didn't know what to make of it all. He tried to jump onto the kitchen surface, slobbered over the tables, peed in every corner. In short, you could tell pretty quickly he had never lived in a house.

Everything was new and so exciting, everything he did he did with gusto, and - we're sure if he could have - with a big grin on his face. The second night he almost jumped into the TV when watching a flock of flamingos take flight during a wildlife programme. And, all the time, Bob just wanted to eat and eat... anything edible and sometimes not so edible.

By the third evening Bob had started to vomit and have diarrhoea. At the vets he was found to be extremely anaemic, his blood count was off, and he needed in-house care with a drip, antibiotics and vitamin injections. Thankfully, his organs were working properly. The next day, the vet recommended home care as the best option for Bob's recovery because he'd been so frightened at the clinic and had seemed to have given up. We took him home and fed him tablespoons of watery recovery diet every two hours for several days and nights. Every day for the next three weeks, we drove to the vet. Slowly he recovered, and two months after being found, he had his blood tests and was given an all clear.

After a short period in foster upon his arrival in the UK, he eventually found a forever home in Hertfordshire. So, due to the love, support and commitment shown to Bob by all those involved in his rescue and recovery, his story has the happiest of endings. Sadly, he passed away 5 and a bit years later through cancer but had enjoyed 5 extra years when he had been so close to death.

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