



Pointers In Need Information Sheet #2

“Initial Advice & Dog Escape”

March 2022

So, you have decided you would like to adopt a Pointer from us?

We of course welcome all enquiries, and we hope that we will be able to find a suitable dog for you, your family, and your lifestyle.

However, we need to make you aware of a few things that you should expect in adopting a Pointer from us. This applies whether you are an experienced Pointer person or not.

It is **imperative** that you do your homework on the breed first. Make sure you know and understand the difference between show-bred Pointers and working-line Pointers. Please ask for advice if unsure.

You **will** almost certainly need to put in and commit to a considerable amount of time and effort in rescuing one of our Pointers – if you cannot, then sadly we will not be able to consider you as an Adopter.

Why do we say that? Because our dogs will generally:

- Be almost exclusively ex-gun/working dogs, trained to hunt, – they will have previously been used merely as a “*tool of the trade*” by hunters, nothing more - devoid of any love and affection
- They will probably have a strong hunting instinct
- They will chase/hunt bird, rabbit, squirrel, deer, cat, almost any wildlife given the chance – and possibly, having had to survive on their own for some time, may well kill the prey if caught!
- They will almost certainly have little or no recall
- They will have little or no manners
- They, when fully fit, could be around 37/8kg for a large male
- They will have had little or no experience of family life, houses, gardens etc
- They will probably have lived their entire life outside, and likely to have been chained up when not working
- They will have had little or no crate training
- They will not be used to a lead/collar – they will initially pull on a lead!
- They are generally excellent escapologists, jumpers and diggers
- Those who like water, are excellent swimmers

- They will scavenge, and to survive will have eaten anything including possibly their own faeces - and will probably continue to do so
- They will steal food given the opportunity and which is within reach
- They may have suffered some form of trauma and/or injury
- They will run and run and will be over the hill and far away in the blink of an eye given the chance
- They should NOT be compared to any existing non-rescue Pointer you may own or may have experienced in the past

We can support you all the way – **BUT, you need to be certain and comfortable with the challenges that you will possibly be faced with in rescuing a Pointer.**

Ultimately, they are an absolute wonderful breed, and they will (and check out the success stories on our website or talk to any of the team, all of whom have had their own rescues), eventually:

- Become your best friend
- Be a great family dog
- Be great with kids
- Adapt with training
- Love a sofa and a lap
- Forget their past lives.....

.....and just to warn you, once you have one, you'll probably want two!



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POINTERS IN NEED
“Dog Escape” – important

When your dog arrives, it is imperative that you make every effort to ensure your dog has no escape routes or is given the opportunity to flee. We will discuss any vulnerabilities around your property during the home-check process, so please take heed. It will be a requirement of adoption that you action any/all requirements highlighted during the home-check process.

Security is of particular importance in the first few months of taking a dog on whilst the dog is still in unfamiliar surroundings. But, even the most loyal and settled dog could escape and flee given the chance. But for the purpose of this note, we are focusing on a newly arrived dog and the first few weeks.

Some of the areas you will need to consider (this isn't an exhaustive list), that could result in your dog escaping:

1. A poor fitting collar: make sure the collar cannot slip over the dog's head, and there's a decent clasp/buckle
2. Make sure you have a sturdy lead, and you have a permanent secure grip and can't let go when walking. Note as mentioned above, that a big male at 38kg takes a bit of stopping if he's pulling; could you control him? Talk to us about any appropriate leads and advice on pulling.
3. Taking the dog to/from the car and when opening/closing the doors can be an issue – Ideally a fixed crate in the car is best; have the dog on lead when taking in and out of car, don't just let him jump out.
4. Going to the front door; something we probably do without think **but**, could the dog squeeze past you? Instead, shut him in a separate room before answering the door.
5. Making sure your garden gates are secure at all times – has a delivery driver been through or the kids shut it properly.

Let's not beat around the bush here; if your dog gets out and runs; **the chances of getting him back alive are probably no better than 50/50** depending on the dog and the environment/area he escapes from and to.

If there is a major road or railway nearby; dogs and trains/cars do not mix, and if hit, survival is sadly unlikely. We do not want to receive a call saying the dog has gone missing, or has been run over, because he has managed to escape. We fully appreciate and accept that accidents can easily happen, **all we ask is that you take every conceivable precaution** to make the sure the dog's environment is safe and sound 24/7.

Just be aware of letting your guard down for a second, and double checking everything.

Please make sure you familiarize yourself with the content of this document.

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