

# IBR Foster Care Program

Featuring the masculine volunteers of our rescue group



The most important aspect of IBR's adoption process is our foster care program. Most of our foster homes are located within an hour or so of Chicago. We also have foster homes in Iowa, Missouri, Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio. Before adoption, our foster homes need to assess their new rescue dog's health and temperament. Many dogs that come in are in the worst shape physically, and we spare no expense as far as making sure every dog in foster care receives the best veterinary care possible. Before adoption all IBR rescue dogs are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, or not-vaccinated as the case may be, wormed, heartworm tested- given heartworm preventative and flea and tick prevention and micro-chipped.

Because a large percentage of our rescue dogs have suffered abuse and neglect, the foster family has to slowly help their rescue dog to build trust and confidence. This is only done through patience and kindness. As many of our rescue dogs have never been indoors- most have to manage walking on hard wood floors and also learn to go up and down stairs.





Our foster homes duties also involve cage training and house breaking their new rescue dog. Many of our foster dogs have never been exposed to children- so we take the utmost care placing the right foster dog in the right foster home.

It is also very important for our foster homes to socialize their new rescue dog with their own dogs or take them to outdoor excursions at the dog park. We are lucky to have many large fenced in dog parks in the Chicagoland area to test our rescue dogs' range off leash. It is rare that we come across a Field bred Pointer or Setter that handles at close range. Most take off like a bullet- and may run hard for hours. Some may need a little extra work with an Electric collar for recall training- but most are happy to find their human companion- once a bond has been established.



This evaluation process is most helpful when determining a rescue dog's potential rehab back into a pet/hunting home. A bird dog with good hunting potential can live indoors and needs not be intact to perform well in the field. IBR's foster care program gives those homeless hunters a second chance.

The pretty Lemon and White Pointer to the right is Silo Molly- with her first foster dad- John. She was kept in a grain silo most of her life in Southern Indiana and was bred repeatedly until she was moved to an animal control facility after her owner threatened to shoot her in the head. It took several months of hard work to help her trust people, and feel safe around other dogs. Due to her silo confinement, she also had to get over her neurotic circling on a walk. Eventually she did and was adopted soon after because of our foster care program.



## Paul McFarling- Foster Daddy Extraordinaire



Paul grew up in the Michigan Upper Peninsula and has been an active hunter all his life. He and his wife Yukiko- have a Yellow Lab- Hunter, and a GSP- named Jiro. Paul happened to be looking at [www.petfinders.com](http://www.petfinders.com) one day while at work. He saw an URGENT plea for help for a Pointer that needed a new foster home for IBR. With both of their experience with hunting dogs- they made ideal candidates to help IBR with foster care.

Since Paul and Yukiko started volunteering with the rescue, they have fostered close to 20 Pointers and Setters and have driven all over the Mid-west to help save a few more.



In October of 2005, Paul and Yukiko became a "failed foster home" and adopted their handsome Pointer-Laser. Many of Yukiko's photos feature Hunter, Jiro and Laser.



Paul and Laser above-- at a recent adoption event.