

STATEMENT OF HEATHER XXXXX

When I was called about these 6 labs that needed help I was told they needed to get out of animal control ASAP because they were in such horrible condition that they were afraid they would not survive much longer being in this environment. I did not think I could pull off doing all 6 so I suggested maybe 2 - 3 at the most. In the meantime I e-mailed all of the people I could think of telling them about these labs and asking if they would be willing to foster. I had so many people come forward to help!

So off I went to pick up all labs at Roscommon Animal Control. When I picked them up I was told that I needed to be VERY careful due to them being starved for so long that severe food aggression could be a problem. They had already had a fight break out among 2 of them. When I saw the labs they were in terrible condition. I have been doing rescue for about 2-3 years now and they are pretty close to the worst I have seen in a long time, and I have had MANY animals come through my home and I have been to MANY animal controls all across Michigan.

The mixed breed male lab was so thin that you could see every vertebrae along his spine and you could make out all of the ribs of his rib cage. He had multiple wounds on his body that had scabbed over and his tail had open sores at the tip so whenever he wagged it, it would reopen and blood would splatter everywhere. He did have food aggression with humans and also other dogs at first. He has since gained over 15 pounds and his tail has healed finally.

The male black lab was also very thin, and around his mouth he had lost all of the hair due to malnutrition. It was VERY pink in color where there was no hair. he now has hair where he had lost it since he has put on weight and been on a good diet.

The male chocolate lab also again was VERY thin, poor coat condition the hair could be pulled out by the handful, the top his nose had no hair on it, and he also had multiple areas on his body that he had scabbed over wounds along with a tail with open sores that like the other one would splatter blood every time we wagged it. When he would eat, he would eat so fast he would throw it all back up. A few times he choked on the food he would eat so fast. He was the same way with water. I had to regulate how much water he had for about 2-3 weeks and food also feeding and watering in small amounts and I also had to add warm water to the food to help it go down easier so he would not choke. This boy was fostered by me, and he was scared to death of any floors that were not carpet and when he first came I actually had to keep his crate SHUT because he would have stayed in there all of the time if I did not do this. He also was scared to death of

stairs, I had to physically pick him up and help him outside to go to the bathroom. When he went outdoors one day, I had a water bowl that was empty, someone peed in this bowl, I looked outside and he was lapping up the pee out of the bowl. He also had to be watched every time he went outdoors because he would eat the other dogs and his own feces. This behavior stopped after a few weeks and he understood he was going to always have a regular meal and access to water. This dog had to be bathed 4 times to get the smell and the feces (he needed to be brushed in the bath water to remove the feces stuck in his coat) out from his coat.

Female black lab VERY thin, her head almost looked like a cone shape to me due to being so thin. She also had a tail that we had a terrible time healing. Terrible ear infections.

Female Yellow Lab, very thin also and initially thought she may have mange around her eyes, but it turned out to only be poor nutrition. The hair was nearly gone around her eyes, but after better nutrition and after a lot of weight was put on her, hair began to grow back around her eyes.

After picking them up from Roscommon animal control they went straight to the vet Riverside animal Hospital in Flushing. Dr. Brown and his staff worked on the dogs getting weights, doing fecals and they were able to do Rabies only at this time. The dogs were too thin to perform any other vaccinations and they did not want us to even put revolution a flea and tick medication on them yet until they put on weight. While at the vet many of the dogs urinated and had bowel movements, and each of them would try to eat the feces and lap up the urine. I to be honest have never seen a dog act like they were so starved in my life. Even ones I have pulled out of animal controls over the years that have been thin with ribs showing never ever behaved in this manner.

Heather XXXXX
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