

Paws-It!

Washington Ferret Shelter & Rescue



Volume 12 Issue 1

There's no place like a REAL home...

Written by Megan Reuther

fostering is the first step...

So, what *is* fostering? In our Shelter, we have two levels; one is temporarily fostering, and the other is permanently fostering ferret(s).

Temporary Fostering. The Shelter Staff likes to put new arrivals into temporary foster homes to help them make the transition from their former homes to life at the Shelter. For some ferrets, it's a shock to go from getting zero attention to a new, active home. The ferrets that have a particularly tough time are the older ones that have been spoiled all their lives and now have to fight for love and attention from one busy human or another. When the summer months hit, dumping season begins and our temporary foster homes seem to fill up quickly. So if you think you

might be up to housing a couple ferrets for a few weeks to a month, let us know! Please contact our Foster Home Coordinator, Cara Quinn (liane@ferretlovers.com) for more details. You must have the desire to analyze a poop or two and be willing to call or email us with questions! We do ask that you live relatively close to the Shelter or be willing to drive your fuzzies out to us on Saturdays or for adoption/foster appointments.

Permanent Foster Homes. Ok, so now you've loved on your "temporary" kids for some time and just cannot part with them. Well, that's ok too—it happens to every single one of us! We'll make sure they "fall off" the available section of the webpage and you can consider them yours. If the animals are deemed fos-

ters, the Shelter will continue to provide their medical care in exchange for a low monthly donation. And if the ferrets are considered adoptable ferrets, you will be first in line to adopt them!

Putting ferrets into a home allows us to better assess their temperament, likes/dislikes, etc. You will play a crucial part in connecting your ferret with his/her new family! It's extremely heart-warming to see your ferret(s) move on and receive updates from his new family. The ferrets benefit greatly because you've eased some of the stress of losing their family and allowed for them to have a great time while they were with you. So think about it... and let us know if you're game. Thanks in advance from one busy foster mom to all of you.

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Hella's foster kiddo, Nightlight, enjoying just one of the benefits of his permanent foster home.

How to Contact Us!

Shelter Voicemail

206.442.2025

Shelter Email

liane@ferretlovers.com

Website

<http://washingtonferret.org>

What's New?

General Update:

Welcome to the Shelter's busy season. It seems like every Spring/Summer ferrets are changing homes, being boarded, being adopted/surrendered, etc. If you've had the hankering to increase your family, now is definitely the time to come see us!

We'd also like to thank Norka for the cool new toons!!

Garage Sale:

Start saving your stuff! We'll be hosting our 2nd annual garage sale in Mill Creek on **May 1st**. Details will be on the website soon. Items for sale can be brought to

the Shelter for storage.

Adoption Day:

Also on **May 1st**, we'll be at the Lynnwood Petco for an Adoption day. Come out & say hi! (After you stop at the garage sale! :)

Ferret Frolic:

We're going to have our first ever Ferret Frolic this year! We're planning for the afternoon of **August 21st** (more details to come). If you would like to help organize the event, please contact Charity Bohanan at ferrest.of.all@comcast.net. We're in need of prizes, sponsors, event ideas—

the whole shebang!

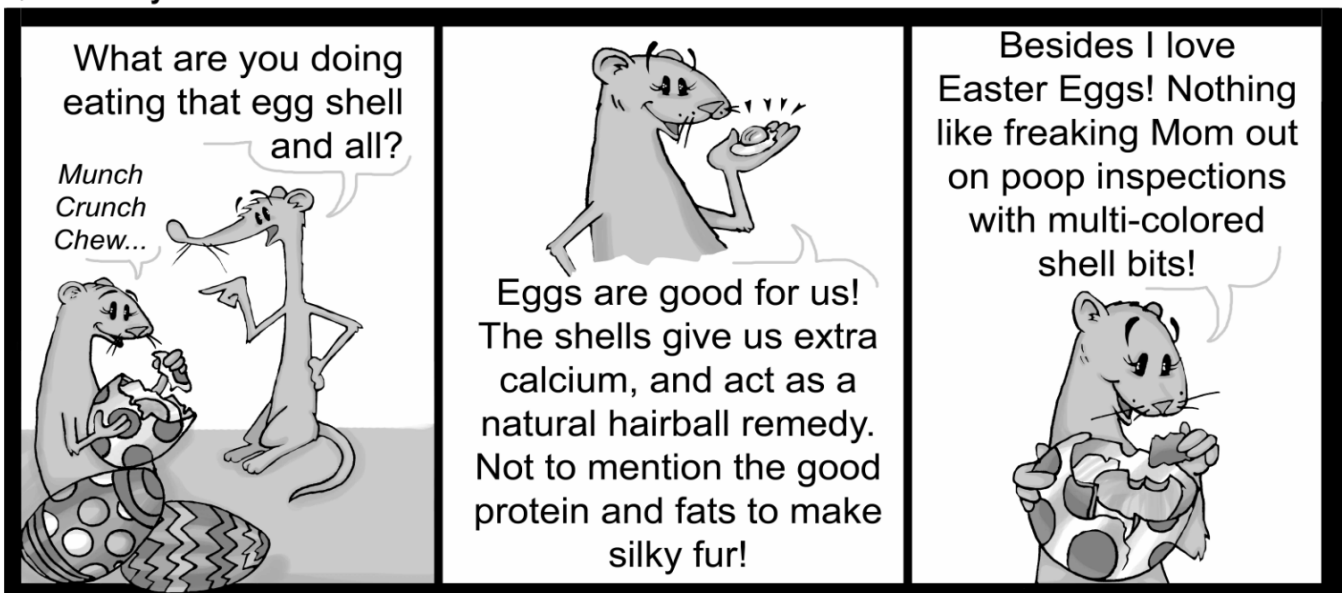
Sponsor a Ferret:

Any of our foster animals are eligible for sponsorship. Help pay for their food or medical care & at the same time, you'll be helping us keep our foster program alive!

Happy Tales:

Would you like to share your experience adopting, fostering or sponsoring a ferret? We'd love to hear from you!! If you'd like to participate, please send your story & a picture or two to liane@ferretlovers.com & we'll get it posted right away!.

Quarks by Norka

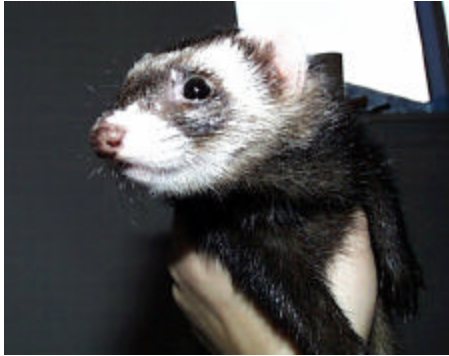


Quarks by Norka



The Joys of Fostering Ferrets.

Of course, the answer to everything is more ferrets! We had gone from zero to seven ferrets in about five months flat, and had no real intention of obtaining any more fuzzies anytime soon... but that's before I started volunteering at WFRS.



One Sunday when I went to scoop boxes at the shelter, I fell in love with this totally bald, tiny little fireball named Jasmine. She had just been started on Lupron, and would soon grow her hair back. She had a buddy, Halle, who was

also starting to lose hair around her tail – another Lupron candidate. Whenever I watched these two little characters play with the other ferrets, I was struck by how much energy little Jasmine had. I decided that I would temporarily foster these two, as they had been at WFRS for awhile.

Meanwhile, back at my home-stead, I was still having some integration problems with the seven ferrets I had (two of whom are also fosters, by the way). I brought Jasmine and Halle home with the understanding that there was no way I would expose these two tiny, little, sick things to my brutes (5 males, and 2 females). On a whim, however, I did introduce them. Jasmine became my alpha ferret within ten minutes and cured all of my integration troubles – everyone got along! Indeed, the answer for us was more ferrets.

Thus, these “temporary” fosters

Written by Leanna Aker

became immediately permanent. I thought for sure Jasmine and Halle would slow down once they got used to their new home, but they're still as crazy as ever at four and two years of age, respectively. Both have adrenal tumors, but you'd never know it if you saw them war-dancing around my ferret room. Though these girls might have health issues, they are wonderful pets....and who knows how many more years I might have with them!



At the Bridge ... We would like to remember those fuzzies who brought us so much joy... Their time with us was too short.

Minnie Pearl & Tomac—Misty B. said goodbye to her long-time friend, Minnie Pearl this past month. Minnie has been with her for years, and Misty battled insulinoma right alongside her for a long time. Unfortunately, the cancer won out and she had to make the tough decision to let her go. Dear Tomac passed in his sleep, with his buddies curled all around him. We're not sure why, but were so glad that he passed with his family surrounding him.

Stormy—Stormy found his way into Cindy's arms. He melded right into his new ferret family, but unfortunately it was only for a short time. He had heart troubles, and although he was on medication to fight them, he did not pull through. Thank you for taking him & loving him for all the time he had.

Doodles—Doodles or “wild woman” as her mom & dad called her was a beautiful ball of white fluff. Doodles had an enor-

mous and malignant tumor removed from her abdomen last year. Unfortunately, the cancer still managed to spread throughout her body and in the end, won. She was a precious girl that was so obviously loved. She will be dearly missed.

Weezie—Weezie, named Phoenix by his foster Dad & brother, was a gentle giant of a ferret. We know he was spoiled rotten in his forever home... we're just sorry the time he had with them was so short.

Daisy—Little Miss Daisy's passing was such a shock to us. She was a Marshall Farms girl that was not completely descented. Her anal sac abscessed and she passed suddenly during the surgery attempting to patch our poor girl up! We know her as a spunky, happy gal and will always remember her that way.

Freckles—Freckles made his temporary home permanent. He did not want to go back to the Shelter and would fall ill

every time he visited. I gave up and said he could stay with us. He had adrenal disease and was an older boy with elderly issues. He lived a pretty good life with us, and I am glad I got the chance to know him. His buddy & I miss him terribly...

Kodo—Sweet Miss Kodo, our little anorexic ferret... We tried so hard. She is with her sister now, and is healthy once again.

Spirit & Shadow—Shadow had a hard time dealing with shelter life. Both Shadow & her sister were diagnosed with adrenal disease some years back and had been on Lupron for a long time. We battled the depression that both girls sunk into upon entering the shelter, but were unsuccessful in willing them to live again. Spirit passed a short time after her sister and we miss them very much.

Temporary Fostering.

In my house, we have come to a compromise. Many compromises, in fact, but this one says no more than three ferrets. I love our three ferrets - Bandit, Lilo, and Stitch. Lilo and Stitch were adopted from WFRS, but that's a story for another day.



I've been volunteering at the shelter since summer, and enjoying it immensely. I figure if I can't take all the ferrets home with me, at least I can care for them and play with them! As Christmas came closer, the idea of the ferrets spending the holidays alone in the shelter was getting to me, so as a special treat, we decided as a family to bring a group of ferrets home for the holidays. We knew that we couldn't keep them long-term, but at least we could give them a good holiday.



I talked it over with Cara, and

she said that she had a group of three older ferrets that were having a very hard time adjusting after being surrendered. (It is not uncommon for older ferrets to go into "shelter shock" when they lose their humans.)

So, we took in Laura, Sammy and Wilma (who turned out to be a Will!). The three were quite depressed, and ate up the attention we gave them, but it wasn't enough. They weren't eating well, and stomach problems soon followed. I learned a great deal about caring for sick ferrets, and Cara and Megan were wonderful and patient putting up with all of my questions,



and teaching me as we went.

Laura, in particular was a big concern, at 1 ¼ pounds, she just didn't have any reserves to draw on. I ended up feeding them a "duck soup" mixture of baby food, kibble, and broth blended to a milkshake consistency. They were also on a couple of other medicines to calm their tummies. Let me tell you, ferrets do NOT like Pepto Bismol!! It's a good thing that I look good covered in pink splatters!

This was a very intense time, but the rewards as they started

Written by Kevin Farlee

coming around were enormous! It was so great to see them get to feeling better. I danced around the house when they each started eating on their own! The next stage was getting to see their personalities come out when they felt good enough to start playing! Laura adopted a little plush toy and drug it all over with her. Will would play rough like a big tough guy, and then curl up on my chest to sleep, melting my heart. Sammy just wanted to cuddle with everyone.

Finally, it was time to give them back. That was also very hard, but made much easier knowing that they were all healthy, and were going to another volunteer's house.

The best part of all was finding that they all have forever-homes with loving parents now. I feel very happy and proud knowing that they are still around partly because of me. I still keep pictures of my "foster kids", and I'd do it again in a heartbeat.



The reasons why you *need* more ferrets.

1. You enjoy cleaning up poop.
2. You REALLY enjoy cleaning up poop.
3. You clean up so much poop that you're now discussing it with your friends.
4. They're just too darn cute.
5. Because you have an addiction!
6. Because you have an odd/even number.
7. A baker's dozen is still technically a dozen, right?
8. You don't have that color.
9. What else do you do with empty soda boxes?
10. So you have an excuse to leave stuff strewn about. It's for the ferrets.
11. Did I mention the cute factor?
12. Hopefully he/she will keep the hellion busy. (I know every one of you has a

Written by someone nuttier 'n you!

- hellion...)
13. What's one more?
14. Because you like guessing where you keys, checkbook, & other important items are.
15. Because of how heart-warming it is to see one of the harder cases (abused/biters/health issues) make a breakthrough mentally or physically. It's truly amazing sometimes.

Ferrets Seeking Homes ...

Adoptable Ferrets

Ren & Stinky—This twosome is older, but you'd never know it. Ren is a small silver girl that lives with her light silver/dark-eyed white buddy, Stinky. They love to play and are both very sweet.

Rugrat & Lucifer—Rugrat is a cute sable girl and Lucifer is a gorgeous albino male. They are around 3 years old and get along well with most other ferrets.

Samson & Spice—Spice is a tiny dark sable girl and her buddy is a huge sable male. They get along great with others and are a fun pair.



Spaz & Taz—Spaz is a petite dark sable girl and Taz is a beautiful panda. They get along well with other ferrets and are just a great pair.

Tigger & Buddy—Tigger is a nutcase. He loves to rush out the door and then laugh at you when he manages to slip by you. He is a cute mitted boy & Buddy is a fun-lovin' sable. Both boys are younger and are full of themselves!

Crackers—Crackers is a feisty silver blaze boy. He is a maniac & loves to play. He gets along great with other ferrets and would make the perfect addition to just about any home.

Pooh & Pudge—Pooh is a cute chocolate sable boy and his brother, Pudge, is a beautiful dark-eyed white. They have been incredibly spoiled, so we'd like to get them into a home quick! They will be available for adoption as soon as they have seen the vet.

Foster Ferrets

Note: We do not charge an adoption fee

for our foster ferrets, though many of them will require a vet visit or two in their golden years. The shelter provides medical care and any medications that the foster ferret will need for a low monthly donation of \$10-20 a month. Even this little amount, once a month, helps keep our foster program running, so that we are able to continue helping elderly/ill ferrets.

Manic & Panic—Manic & Panic are both older ladies. Manic is a cute chocolate girl, and Panic is a pretty & petite silver. Panic was mostly bald when she came into the Shelter, Lupron is doing wonders for her! Panic could stand to gain some weight, but she's otherwise as healthy as can be!

Mischief—Mischief is an older dark sable girl that had a small tumor taken off her nose (it has since healed, and her nose fur has grown back in). She's otherwise completely healthy & gets along with other ferrets—she just needs a new family!

Joy & Speedy—Joy & Speedy are both dark sable girls. Joy has adrenal disease and will need to come back to the shelter each month for a Lupron injection. They are mellow girls and get along well with other ferrets.

Precious & Lucky—Precious is a tiny silver girl and her buddy, Lucky, is a smaller chocolate male. They get along wonderfully with other ferrets and now just need a home. They are healthy at this time, but Precious may need a little



TLC when first adjusting to new home situations.

Sammy—Sammy is an older silver boy that needs a ferret health savvy home. He loses weight and becomes depressed easily, and may suffer from insulinoma. We will need someone to keep a close eye on him & watch for symptoms.

Prince & Princess—Prince is a cute chocolate boy and Princess is a pretty white girl. Princess has adrenal disease and will need to have a Lupron injection once a month. They are otherwise healthy, happy ferrets that are just in need of a new family to make their lives complete.



Rocky—Rocky is a 56 year old sable girl that will need to go as an only ferret. She's completely people-oriented and would really like a whole person all to herself.

Apple & Papaya—Apple is a feisty 3 year old albino boy. He is goofy, and would definitely love to get out of the shelter and into a home. Papaya is a 6 year old sable girl that's absolutely adorable! She came in mostly bald due to adrenal disease and now looks just awesome in her brand new coat! She will need to continue Lupron therapy, but is definitely ready for her new home.

Murphy—Mr. Murphy will need a fairly health-savvy home to watch over him. He has adrenal disease, heart troubles and just recently had a preputial tumor removed. Please inquire if you would like more information.

Roxanne & Ritchie—Roxanne & Ritchie are brand-new to our shelter & we are just getting to know them. More info soon after they've been vetted.

Washington Ferret Rescue and Shelter
18724 Bothell Way NE
Bothell, WA 98011

We're on the Web!

www.washingtonferret.org

A 501(c)3 non-profit organization

Yes, I want to help Washington Ferret Rescue & Shelter!

Enclosed is my donation of:

\$5.00

\$10.00

\$15.00

\$20.00

Other

Please make your donation payable to Washington Ferret Rescue & Shelter (or WFRS) and mail to:

18724 Bothell Way NE

Bothell, WA 98011

Contributions are tax-deductible under 501(c)3 regulations of the Internal Revenue Service. Appropriate receipts will be mailed for your records.

Our Wish List:

Donations of time or money are always gladly accepted & appreciated!

Hammocks, Security Cubes—homemade or store bought, we can always use hanging sleep sacks of some sort.

Wood stove pellets for litter (found at Safeway, local hardware stores, the Grange, etc.)

Cages or carriers—clean or dirty, we don't care!

Volunteers to wash laundry, scoop boxes, scrub cages and cuddle ferrets.

More foster homes! Do you have room in your home for a few extra fuzzies for a few days/weeks? Do you have any medical training or are you interested in learning? Let us know!

Ferret Food (Mazuri, Totally Ferret, Marshalls & The Ferret Store's Superior Choice)

I am moving! Please see below:

Yes, I know of someone else who would like to receive the newsletters.

Please send one to the following:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:
