

Paws-It!

Washington Ferret Rescue & Shelter

Volume 30 Issue 1

Take a Bite Out of Your Day

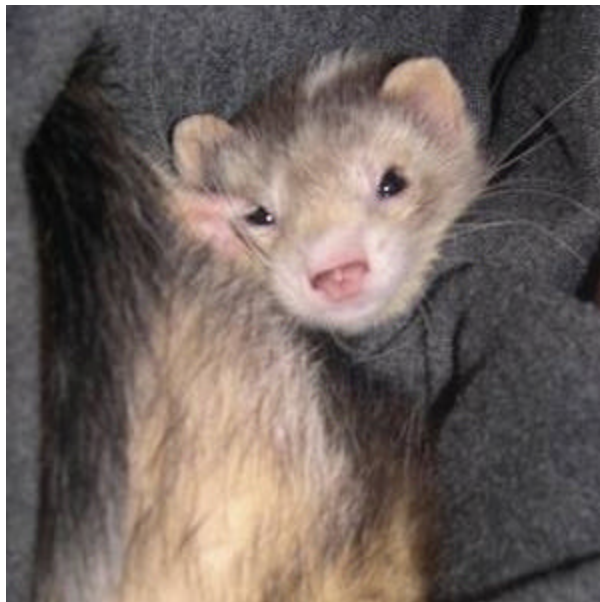
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Imagine the feeling of becoming the proud parent of a baby ferret. Just gazing into those charming weasel eyes and petting his soft fur has you on cloud nine. He licks you with glee and love until you cry out not with joy, but pain! Your new-found fuzzy has turned into Dracula, having just withdrawn blood from your neck with his baby sharp fangs. A case of nuzzling gone wrong.

If Brandi Havill of Renton has her way, this scene would rarely take place. Havill is a new and important addition to the WFRS volunteer staff. Her job is to transform "bitey baby vampires" into "loving cupids" that will inspire

the hearts of potential adopters rather than send them screaming into the night. If not for volunteers like her, the fate of these biters would be dim.

Havill first became interested in socializing



biters after adopting four ferrets from WFRS last summer. Two of the four she adopted were biters. When they bit, Havill usually saw red--her blood, that is. She considered return-

ing the biters to the shelter, until Megan Reuther, Director of WFRS, explained that it was unlikely anybody else would adopt them. At that moment a determined Havill decided it was worth the pain to ensure these babies had a good life. Her mission was to socialize them and have them remain part of her happy ferret family.

After four months of training the mouthy toddlers, Havill was inspired by the amazing transformation. The ferrets, Bean and Mocha, who once chomped on Havill multiple times daily, were now hardly biting at all anymore. When they did bite, it was during play-time and more gently.

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How to Contact Us!

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washingtonferret@yahoo.com

Website:
<http://washingtonferret.org>



Gone were the days of blood-stained clothes and body dings.

Inspired by her own ferrets' transformation, Havill realized she could offer other biting ferrets the opportunity to become loving and adoptable animals. She got her chance to make a difference with WFRS. Her first assignment was to foster and socialize three adorable three-month-old babies: Glacier, Kit-ten and Foxy. Although her fiancé sometimes helps, the job rests mainly on Havill's shoulders.

Havill's home office doubles as a ferret room. She has plenty of toys, a two-story cage and a playpen for the biters. Fortunately, her adopted ferrets adored the foster babies so much that they quickly formed a strong bond. She says, "I believe

that's what helped to speed up their training."

Havill puts in a full day, combining both work and ferret training. She's up at 6 A.M. cleaning cages and bedding, vacuuming and doling out fresh kibble and water. She administers medicine when needed. Playtime can last between two and four hours each day. That's when Havill successfully incorporates commands and training. All sweet fuzzies are tucked in bed around 8 P.M.

A training method developed by Havill includes gentle but firm taps delivered the same way each time on the hind legs. She states, "The reason I believe this works so well is because it does not harm the animal. It gets their attention, and when combined with a 'NO!' it is not easily forgettable. It is very humane." She is firmly against hitting any animal with force and intent to harm.

Socializing biting ferrets has been rewarding for Havill because she feels she's helping give them a better chance at finding a loving home. Having more cute babies around doesn't hurt, either. She says her training is complete when, "I notice that I can pick them up no matter

what they are doing and handle them in any normal fashion without being bitten. I know they are pretty much perfect." She's had good results in only four weeks. The younger the ferrets, the easier the habits are to break.

When asked what she has learned from her ferret experience Havill says, "I have placed myself in their situation and tried to understand their feelings of mistrust, betrayal and fear. More people should attempt such a feat – the rewards are incredible."

Brandi Havill welcomes you to visit her website: PinkFerret.net If you're interested in fostering biting or other ferrets please contact the shelter at washingtonferret@yahoo.com.



What's New?

Oodles of weasels: We're continuing to see high numbers of incoming ferrets. If you've been wanting to add a weasel or two to your family, we certainly have every age, sex & color for you to visit with! Please fill out an online adoption application & come see us soon! We're open every Saturday from 10am-4pm.

* washingtonferret.org/application.html

Let's talk numbers! As of April 4, 2007, the Washington Ferret Rescue & Shelter is currently housing 71 ferrets on-site at its facility, has 7 ferrets in temporary homes and has 62 in permanent foster care. This year, to date, the Washington Ferret Rescue & Shelter has received 55 ferrets, has adopted 43 ferrets and has placed 4 in permanent foster care.

Director's note: I (Megan Reuther) will be stepping down as Shelter Director & Foster Home Coordinator as of June 1, 2007. Please help me welcome Sarah Shipley-Parish as your new Shelter Director & Debbi Walcker as your new Foster Home Coordinator! I'm pleased to turn the shelter over to such capable and qualified ladies. Many, many thanks to you both!

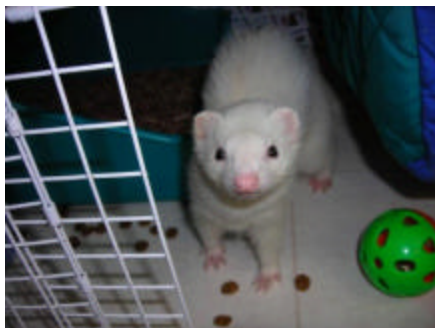
Ferrets Seeking Homes ...

Adoptable Ferrets

Please see the [adoptable pet list](#) on our website for current availabilities. Adoption fees are \$100 for one ferret, \$150 for two, and we have a [foster program](#) as well. All ferrets have been vaccinated against Canine Distemper & Rabies and have been spayed/neutered and descented (the latter is unless otherwise noted).

While darling, these babies have already learned how to bite. All 9 will require a ferret-savvy homes that can teach them a new set of manners. They are all Real Canadian ferrets & the following are left: **Bellona** - 3 month old dark sable female; **Ceres** - 3 month old sable female; **Flora** - 3 month old lighter sable female; **Minerva** - 3 month old sable female; **Terra** - 3 month old sable female; **Vesta** - 3 month old sable female. Some of these babies are not quite ready to be adopted, as they have prolapsed rectums. This will be resolved prior to adoption.

These cuties arrived shortly after Thanksgiving this year... thus the themed names! **Apple Crisp** is a 1.5 year old sable boy w/ white paws, **Ham** is a 1.5 year old sable boy, & **Giblet** is a 1.5 year old sable boy. They can be split into pairs or adopted as one big, happy group!



Aries is a 1 year old albino female, **Hades** is a 1 year old marked DEW boy & **Maximus** is a 1 year old chocolate boy. We'd love to find a home for these cuties where they can stay together.

Bear (2 yrs, sable f) & **Noodles'** (2 yrs, dark sable m) owner sadly could no longer keep them. They are very sweet, sociable kids and would love a new home for the new year!

Meet the candy group! **Butterfinger** is a 3 year old silver male, **Caramel** is a 1 year old chocolate/sable male, **Snickers** is a 1.5 year old sable with bib. These cuties can be paired up or adopted as a trio.



Doodles (3 yrs, m, silver), **Inspector** (4 yrs, m, silver sable) & **Snacks** (4 yrs, f, dark sable) arrived at our shelter on Sat, 9/9. We would love to find them a home together. They're all wonderful ferrets!

Ferris is a 2 year old sable mitt boy & **Sadie** is a 1.5 year old sable female. They are friendly, happy ferrets and are all set to go home with you!

Ferris (1.5 y/o black mitt male), **Dexter** (2 y/o chocolate male) & **Chloe** (3 y/o sable female) have been at the shelter since the end of September. They are sweet kids and are ready to find a new



home together. Please come visit this ferret family soon!

Fitch is an adorable sable mitt girl. She is about 1 year old and was surrendered because her owner is being sent to Iraq. She's a delightful little girl and we're sure she won't be here long!

Furelle is a 1 year old DEW girl. She's has a feisty personality and would make a wonderful addition to most any playgroup.

This group came in together in the middle of November. **Harry** is a 2 year old sable boy, **Hermione** is a 2 year old sable girl, and **Newbie** is a 2 year old light blaze female. This trio should be adopted in as a ferret family.

Isis is as cute as a button, and has a great personality. She doesn't like other ferrets, and will need to be an only fuzz. She is a sable mitt girl that's around 4 yrs old.

Jinx is an adorable 6 month old blaze girl. She's a fun & feisty girl, and is all set to go home with you!

Jinx & **Momoko** are 8 month old boys. They're playful, silly & would love to go home with you!

Lilly (4 yr DEW female), **Lilo** (4 yr silver female), **Sammy** (4 yr silver male) & **Chami** (5 yr

sable female) were surrendered to our shelter in June. We'd love to see them find a new home soon so they don't have to spend much time at the shelter. Please let us know if you'd like to meet these sweethearts.



Marshmallow is a 3 year old albino boy & **Cocoa** is a 4 year old dark sable girl. They are a lovely pair of ferrets and would love a new home.

Misty is a 1.5 year old chocolate female & **Rascal** is a 2 year old dark sable boy. This pair didn't come in together, but they've become such good friends. We'd like to see them either go together or with families that have ferrets already.

Rascal is a 3.5 year old sable boy & **Buddy** is a 3.5 year old sable guy with white toes. They would love to go home for the holidays - come meet them today!

Rip is a 3.5 year old silver blaze boy, **Priscilla** is a 3 year old dark sable girl & **Scampy** is a 3 year old champagne girl. We'd



like to place this 3-some together as a group. Won't you come meet them?

Roxy is a 6 year old sable girl & **Zoey** is a 3 year old dark sable female. Roxy & Zoey are very sweet, little girls and are quite healthy at this time. We'd love for you to meet them!

Smokey (3 year old light sable male) & **Bandit** (3 year old sable male) were surrendered together. They're very sweet boys and we'd love to find them a home together.

Meet the Muppets! **Beeker** is a dew girl; **Camilla** is a chocolate blaze girl; **Fozzie** is a silver sable boy & **Piggy** is an adorable blaze girl. This group can be placed in pairs or as singles with other ferrets.

Tigger is a 3 year old silver male; **Scruffles** is a 5.5 year old light sable girl; **Pooh** is a 3 year old chocolate male & **Belle** is a 9 year old sable female. We'd really like to place this ferret family together, but they can be split into pairs if necessary.

Tol (5 year old cinnamon male), **LD** (9 year old dark sable girl), **Fate** (4 year old dew male) & **Damian** (5 year old sable male) were all surrendered together and are now seeking a new home. We would prefer to place them all together, but they can be split into pairs if necessary.

Twitch is a 6 month old fuzz-bucket. She likes other ferrets and has a fun personality. She won't be here long, so come see her soon.

Vlad & **Slinky** are 2-3 year old chocolate colored ferrets. They would love to find a home of their own with humans to spoil

them rotten. They've had a rough go of it these past few months and sure deserve a good home.

Foster Ferrets

Note: We do not charge an adoption fee for our foster ferrets, though many of them will require a vet visit (or several!) in their golden years. The Shelter provides medical care and any medications, obtained at the shelter, that your ferret will need in exchange for a monthly donation to help cover your ferret's medical costs. Even just a few dollars, once a month, helps keep our foster program running, so that we are able to continue helping elderly/ill ferrets.



Slinky, above, is a 6 year old albino male. He came to us very underweight with a tumor on his cheek. We'd love to see him get into a retirement home and be spoiled for the rest of his days. Do you have a Slinky-sized space in your home?

Suzie (3.5 yr sable female), **Daisy** (3 yr silver mitt female) & **Lucy** (3.5 yr chocolate mitt female) were surrendered to our shelter together. They are adorable and we'd love to place them all as a big group. If you're interested in adding a ferret family to your home, please contact us soon!

Washington Ferret Rescue and Shelter
13603 100th Ave NE
Kirkland, WA 98034

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:

**13603 100th Ave NE
Kirkland, WA 98034**

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:
