

Paws-It!

Washington Ferret Rescue & Shelter



Volume 17 Issue 1

Fundraising Madness

We're getting down to the wire. We need to find a place to move the Shelter to by the end of April.

We are actively looking to buy a building, but will consider leasing a spot for a short time while we find a new home. An ideal building would be between 1,500-2,000 square feet, zoned retail and would be along the I405 corridor from Everett to Bellevue. If you know of such a location, please let us know!

Once we find a space, we'll need help cleaning up our old space and getting our new one ready to accommodate the Shelter. So have your vacuums,

paintbrushes, tools & vehicles handy and watch for the call for help to go out. Hopefully it will be sooner rather than later!

WFRS now has a Fundraising Committee, composed of a couple of hard working ladies; Leanna Aker, Susan Montana and myself. We'll be writing grants, thank yous, and have already begun updating our database. By now you've likely received one of the fruits of this committee. Please let us know what your home mailing address is, so we can send you invitations to get togethers, parties & other events.

Does fundraising and/or

Written by Megan Reuther

marketing sound like something you might be interested in? We sure could use the help! Email us at washingtonferret@yahoo.com if you'd like to join us in keeping the Shelter in the black.

We are also looking for volunteers to staff booths, run Adoption Days, edit newsletters/brochures and coordinate events for the Shelter.

There are so many opportunities to volunteer with us, and we're sure you won't be disappointed. We so appreciate each and every volunteer! Thank you once again to all our volunteers; past, present and future!

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How to Contact Us!

Shelter Voicemail:
206.442.2025

Shelter Email:
washingtonferret@yahoo.com

Website:
<http://washingtonferret.org>

What's New?

In the News:

WFRS was featured in the Woodinville Weekly! View the article online at: <http://www.nwnews.com/editions/2005/050214/features3.htm>

Café Press:

Support your local Shelter and get some really neat stuff at: <http://www.cafepress.com/wfrs> Check out the latest in Shelter fashion,

bumper stickers and coffee mugs with our logo!

Membership Meetings:

Everyone is welcome to attend our General Membership Meetings on the second Tuesday of every month from 7pm-10pm in the South County PUD Office located at 21018 Hwy 99 in Edmonds, WA. We will be having a meeting every

month except for April, as we hope to be moving!

Happy Tales:

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

Ring in the New Year with Dollars, Stuff & Love ... *Written by: Leanna Aker*



Ring in the New Year with Dollars, Stuff, and Love.

Wow, what a great year for the shelter! We often talk about numbers in terms of the ferrets that were adopted, fostered, or surrendered; but there are also amazing numbers to talk about in donations of time, supplies, and money.

Last year, over fifty different families donated a grand total of \$6600! In addition, the front room of WFRS is overflowing with toys,

hammocks, cages, books, and other supplies... all generous donations. Volunteer time totals are also staggering, totaling over 650 hours a year! Volunteers give their time in many ways, ranging from direct ferret care (playing, scooping boxes, clipping nails, bathing, etc.) to maintaining web pages and purchasing supplies for the shelter. WFRS would like to send a big thank you to those folks who have contributed time, money, or supplies last year.

While sometimes it may seem like your contributions are minimal and don't matter, it is also important to note that a large portion of our monetary donations were between \$10 and \$30. Volunteer time can also come in small increments. I personally go to the shelter once

every other week to scoop boxes and play with the ferrets. In addition, one hammock can bring the shelter between \$5 and \$10. All of these things add up quickly.

So give yourself a pat on the back if you contributed in any way to the shelter last year. Your generosity means more than you may realize to the health of the ferrets and the continued success of our shelter.



HHHHMM ...



For those of you that have joined us at our monthly meetings, you are already aware of Dr. Cathy's HHHHHMM model for assessing quality of life.

Death is not a fun nor exciting

topic to talk about, but it should be addressed as it is a part of the life of every living being. Our last couple of meetings have covered how to assess a ferret's quality of life, how to put our emotions aside and make the right decision for our ferret and then how to grieve afterward.

First, the HHHHHMM model to assess quality of life is made up of the below categories. Rate each on a scale between 1-10, 10 being a completely normal, healthy ferret.

Hurt: Is the ferret in pain? Living on pain killers? Is there an end to the hurt in sight?

Written by: Megan Reuther

Hydration: Is the ferret receiving fluids for life? Is it adequate (does it sustain the ferret throughout the day)? Is the ferret getting fluids 1-2 times a day? If so, that is not quality life. I wouldn't want to be poked several times a day for the rest of my life, for instance.

Hygiene: Is the ferret able to clean himself, or are you able to keep the ferret clean? This is very important to the ferret's mental health. Ferrets are very clean critters naturally.

Hunger: Are you having to force



this ferret to eat? Is he making gains (gaining or maintaining weight)? If not, he's starving, and hurting.

Happiness: Is the ferret anxious, frustrated, or doing nothing but sleeping? If so, he's not happy. When was the last time you saw him dance?

Mobility: Is the ferret able to move away from his own waste? Can someone turn him every 2 hours so that his blood does not pool in the lung that is closest to the floor, and so that he doesn't develop bed sores?

More good days than bad: Bad days include vomiting, diarrhea, coldness/fever & pain.

Dr. Cathy talked about the euthanasia option when your ferret does not rate at least 5 on each of the items above. She advises trusting your veterinarian in looking at those questions objectively. She talked about setting the guilt and blame aside as those are emotions we create and put on ourselves—the ferret does not blame us for how he is feeling. Think of the right

here & now so you can better understand how the ferret is feeling, not how you rationalize the ferret to be feeling. This will enable you to make the best decision at the time.

She touched on foster care givers and how we need to lean on each other when we lose a ferret. She called offering hospice care "pawspice" ... and that's really what it is; hospice care, when there is no happy ending in sight.

She talked about celebrating a life, instead of dwelling on the illness. Relatively, the ferret's illness was a very short time in his life. She'd like to see the illness part be as brief and pain-free as possible.

At our February meeting, Ann Gibson a Reiki Master and Grief Counselor shared her experiences working at a wildlife rehabilitation center. She shared some very neat photos and we talked about some of the happy successes and some of the sad losses.

She commends shelter volunteers & foster parents for their efforts and encourages us all to continue doing what we're doing, to lean on each other in times of loss and/or in the face of abuse and to get together and talk about our experiences to help work through some of the grief. Grieving is absolutely normal and there is no wrong way to do it.

Ann shared the following blessing, which is very comforting both in times of loss and for busy days

when an outlet for the day's melting pot of emotions is needed.

You use 4 candles. As you light candle 1 you say - For all the ferrets, we light our candles. As you light candle 2 you say - For the bright moments we have shared with our ferrets. As you light candle 3 you say - For the love that is stronger than anything, even when our ferret has gone. As you light candle 4 you say - For the great gift of their unconditional love for us.

This blessing energy gives us the juice to keep on going, to appreciate what is here and to cope with grief. For every ferret is important and the loss of a ferret is a significant loss.

In closing, she offered a poem. I thought it was so touching that I wanted to share it with you all as well.

I looked at all the caged animals in the shelter

The cast-offs of human society.

I saw in their eyes love and hope, Fear and dread, sadness and betrayal.

And I was angry.

"God", I said, "This is terrible!"

"Why don't you do something?"

God was silent for a moment and then he spoke softly.

"I have done something", he replied,

"I created you".

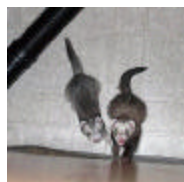
At the Bridge ... We would like to remember those fuzzies who brought us so much joy... Their time with us was too short.



Sweet **Marshmallow** passed on recently. He was an old man that loved to cuddle. Thank you, Kayla, for being such a

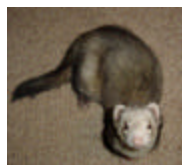
good friend to him. He had a long & wonderful life in foster care & at the Shelter.

Nicky was adopted from our Shelter as a busy youngster. Linda & Jim got suckered by



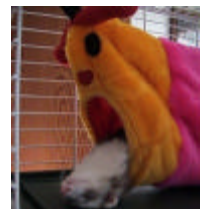
that cute face right away and it was love. We thank them for loving him so much, and giving a bitey little boy (initially!) a wonderful home.

Kuma passed away leaving a ferret sized hole in the hearts of the people that knew him. Thank you so much for fostering



him, Melissa. You gave him a long & happy life for as long as we possibly could give him.

Keiko, Ferret Frolic Race Champion '03, passed away leaving Charity & Jason heartbroken. She was ever daddy's little girl, and a treat monster whose nickname was Supermouse as she could scale cages in a single bound. May the Yogis be plenty for her.



Ferrets Seeking Homes ...

Adoptable Ferrets

Anya (dark sable, f) & **Bam Bam** (sable, m) are new arrivals to our Shelter. They are between 2-3 years old and must go to a new home together.



Bandit came into our Shelter as a skeleton. He has been eating non-stop and has put on a considerable amount of weight in a short time. He plays well with other ferrets and will need to go to a home with a ferret buddy or two.

Rocky & **Bandit** are both dark sable boys that are around a year old. They love other ferrets, playing and just need a new home.



Boris is a sable male that does not get along very well with other ferrets. He's older (4ish) and is presently healthy. So if you'd like a single boy, he's the ferret for you!

Bubba and **Bonkers** are new to our Shelter. They are between 1-2 years of age. They're playful, get along well with other ferrets and are well-mannered.

Sosa is a feisty champagne girl that isn't fond of other ferrets and **Cartman** is an adorable lug of a boy that enjoys cuddling with his humans and playing with his buddy.

Chloe is a sensitive 3 year old dark sable and **Mr. Elliott** is a goofy 3 year old champagne boy. They are kind of particular about which ferrets they like, but they both do great with people.



Cybil & **Damian** are two adorable silver/sable girls. They are fat & fluffy with their winter coats and would love to go to a new home soon.



Frankie (m, sable mitt) is a sensitive boy that is missing his family. He adores his temporary foster home and really lets loose with those crazy dances of his.



Sadie (f, sable mitt) is a feisty little thing. She's a busy-body through and through and would love to go home with her buddy, Frankie. Frankie & Sadie do well with kitties, but don't like other ferrets. They'll need to go together to a home where there aren't any other ferrets.

Hunter (sable, m) & **Patty** (dark sable w/ white toes, f) just arrived at our Shelter. They are only 4 months old and are just as cute as cute can be. They won't be here long!

Jack Sparrow & **Jelly** are two of seven ferrets that just arrived at our Shelter. Jelly is 2 years old and Jack is probably around 3 years old. Both are sable males that get along great with other ferrets.



Jake (dark sable, m) & **Archie** (sable, m) are sweet boys looking for a new home. Both

boys are about 3 years old and get along well with other ferrets & dogs.

JD (chocolate, m) came in with **Bailey** (silver, m) & **Margarita** (DEW, f). All three ferrets are friendly & happy, have been vacci-

nated, are neutered and are ready to go.

Jinx (dark sable, m) & **Zipper** (dark sable, m) are 3 year old male ferrets. They get along well with other ferrets and would love a new home of their own.



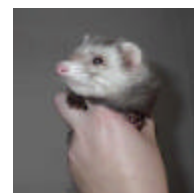
Louie is a huge dark-eyed white boy and **Sandie**, his buddy, is a petite sable girl. Both are around 3 years old and must go to a new home together.

Mish & **Mash** are twin sable boys. Mish is a sweetheart and is very cuddly. His brother, Mash,



can bite very, very hard. They will need a ferret-experienced owner to work with Mash until he gets over his need to bite people. He is getting better with extensive handling, but he still needs work.

Phoenix is a sweet-tempered sable boy that plays well with other ferrets. He would love a home with a ferret buddy or two to play with.



Precious is a tiny silver girl & **Lucky** is a smaller chocolate boy. Both love to cuddle & need to stay together for their own well-being. Both can be nippy at times, and will need to go to a home without small children.

Ranger (sable, m) & **Peaches** (albino, f) were just recently surrendered. They are both around 1-1.5 years old. Peaches has cataracts in both eyes and has limited vision. She may bite if scared. Ranger is a chubby cutie and is a sweetheart.

Rocky (sable, m) & **Shelby** (REW, f) are sweet, cuddly and playful.

Shelby is the busy-body of the two but both of them are friendly & get along well with other ferrets. They are between 3 & 4 years of age.



Skittles is a 2 year old chocolate girl and her buddy, **Gracie** is a 2 year old dark sable female.

They are sweet, playful and are in need of a new home.

Sparkling (m, DEW) & **Champagne** (m, champagne) are two sweet boys that are looking for a new home. They're around 2 years old and are sweethearts.

Spaz is a spastic goofball that starts dancing the moment you put him down. He's a silly, goofy ferret that plays well with others and would love to get right into a new home. Spaz is 2 yr old light sable neutered male ferret.



Tess & Rigby are two silly sable girls. They play well with other ferrets, have been vaccinated and would be the perfect addition to pretty much any home. They are between the ages of 2-3 and would love a new home for the New Year.

Vincent & Garrett are two older dark sable boys. They're incredibly sweet and would love to go to a new home together.



Hemmingway is a 2 year old sable mitt boy and **Zelda** is a 3 year old dark sable female that can be quite nippy. They will need a ferret savvy home without little children.

Foster Ferrets

Note: We do not charge an adoption fee for our foster ferrets, though many of them will require a vet visit (or many!) in their golden years.

The Shelter provides medical care and any medications 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.

Autumn is a sensitive sable point female. She is 4 years old and seems to get along just fine with other ferrets. She will need to be monitored closely to make sure that she continues to eat in her new home.



Hershey (f, chocolate) is an older gal, but she's still full of spunk. She is presently healthy and in good shape. She is not fond of other ferrets and will need a home where she can be an only child.



Mattie is an older girl that loves to be carried around and snuggled. **Odie** is a busier & younger

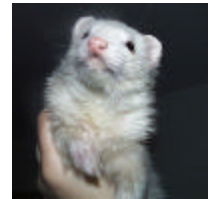
boy that is almost too fast for the camera. They will need a retirement home for the rest of their days.

Mickey is a sweet boy that loves to snuggle. He was recently diagnosed with adrenal disease and will need to return to the Shelter once each month for a Lupron shot. His buddy, **Minnie**, is a feisty little girl with cataracts in both eyes. She is otherwise completely healthy & would love to go to a foster home with him.



ing home. She gets along well with other ferrets and is seeking a retirement home. Let us know if you'd like to care for Mischief throughout her golden years.

Prince & Princess are wonderful ferrets. Princess has adrenal disease & will need to return to the Shelter once each month for a Lupron shot. They would make great "first" ferrets for someone.



Sammy is a 6-7 year old silver boy. He is looking for a home with an extra hammock that would like to see him through his golden years. Sammy gets along well with other ferrets, eats soup twice daily, sleeps a lot and loves to cuddle.

Spunky definitely lives up to his name. He has adrenal disease and will need to return to the Shelter once each month for a Lupron shot. He is an alpha ferret, but does get along well with others in good time.



Susie is an adorable old-lady ferret. She is five years old and would like to retire to a home where she will be spoiled until the end of her days.



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:
