



Washington Ferret Rescue and Shelter

Volume 3 Issue 3

Ferret Proofing Your Home

Ferrets are curious little animals whose main mission is to go where ferrets are not supposed to go. Here are a few good tips to keep your ferrets safe:

1. Fill all holes and cracks

Got a dryer vent? A space under the bathroom or kitchen cabinets? Seal it! The last thing you want is your ferret to be climbing in the walls!

2. Securing cabinets

Child proof locks might keep a 2 year old out, but not always a determined ferret. Try securing your cabinets with a bit of Velcro.

You never know which cupboard you might find your ferret in ... perhaps the cereal cupboard in the Cheerios box!

3. Friendly furniture

Please take the legs off of your sofa, or tack light plywood to the base of it. You can also place the same plywood/pressboard under your box spring. This will prevent your ferret from finding a new sleeping space. Please get rid of rockers, recliners, and sofa beds. They can be a death trap for ferrets.

4. Put houseplants up high

Ferrets are diggers & some plants are poisonous!

5. Watch for open drawers

An open drawer is an invitation for exploration, or can be a tempting place to curl up for a long nap.

6. Keep all doors closed

Ferrets are escape artists. All it takes is the back door being left open for just a second for your ferrets to escape. Always put your ferrets back in their cage before leaving your home. This will keep your ferret safe.

7. Get down on their level

See what it's like to only be a few inches tall. Seek out & make safe anything your ferret might be interested in.

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Caring for your Ferret

Ferrets should receive annual canine distemper (Purevax) and rabies (Imrab-3) vaccinations. Vet care is similar in scope to dog or cat care.

Get your ferret spayed before 7 months or neutered before 10 months of age. If not spayed, females could die of anemia. Males will smell strongly, will mark everything in sight and will fight with other ferrets.

Clip your ferret's nails (avoiding clipping the pink vein) every week or two. If your ferret fidgets, add a little Ferretone (found at local pet stores) to his belly to

distract him. You can also bring your ferrets to the Shelter on a Saturday and we will clip their nails, clean their ears and check their teeth for free.

Do not bathe your ferret any more than once every two weeks. This will actually make him smell more and will dry out his fur.

Heavy brown-black earwax could indicate ear mites. Clean ears regularly.

Protect your ferrets from fleas. Products like Advantage or Frontline are safe to use on your ferret. Do not use flea collars as they are poisonous.

Common signs of illness include:

- Sneezing (cold or flu)
- Vomiting, lethargy, loss of appetite (obstruction, possible poisoning)
- Drooling, weakness, seizures (insulinoma)
- Frequent or difficulty urinating, hair loss (adrenal cancer)
- Constant coughing, weakness (cardiomyopathy)
- Sustained neon-green stools, soft stools (ECE; IBD; neon green is bad)

What's New at Washington Ferret Rescue & Shelter

New Volunteer:

We were very pleased to have such great Volunteers. Jeremy and Chrissy arrive at the Shelter every Saturday and take home all of the ferret laundry. Thanks to them, the ferrets always have clean, warm blankets. We greatly appreciate all of the work that they do!

New Volunteer:

Misty is one of our newest volunteers and just in time! With the Summer months and many families moving, we have a large number of ferrets needing care. Misty is always willing to donate her time to come and clean cages, fill water bottles and clean the playpen. Now that is a great volunteer!!

Conifur Northwest:

This year's Conifur Northwest is being held at the Sheraton Tacoma on October 4-6, 2002. We will be attending and showing our support at this event! Last year's Conifur raised over \$1600 for the WFRS. We are looking forward to attending this year's event once again.

Yard Sale:

Coming this Fall, we are going to be hosting our first Washington Ferret Yard Sale. We are currently gathering any donations that could be sold to benefit the ferrets at the Shelter. If you have any items that you would like to donate, please contact Liane at liane@ferretlovers.com. Thanks for your support! We will let you know as soon as a date is chosen.

Exciting News:

The Ferret Calendars are here! Only available through the Shelter, this Ferret Company Calendar will not be sold in stores or from The Ferret Store. Order your copy now from WFRS. Only \$14.95 (including shipping)!

Alki Event:

This Summer's event was a great success. We entertained people on the beach with out ferret antics and our swimming ferrets. We raised awareness about our Shelter and are looking forward to many more successful Washington Ferret Shelter events.

Summer Heat!

Keeping the rug-rats cool can be a challenge in our temperamental Washington weather. Since many of us do not have air-conditioning, here are some cheap ways you can keep your ferrets cool for the few weeks of Summer we do have. Freezing half-full 20 ounce bottles, placing them in a sock and then slipping them into your ferrets' favorite bedding works wonders. Since ferrets do not sweat, having a fan blow around warm air, does not aid in cooling the ferret. However,

draping damp towels over the cage and having the fan blow at them will cool the air down. Should your ferret start to pant, act quickly—you must reduce his temperature ASAP. You can do this by filling a bathtub with an inch of cool water and let him stand in it, or using a cold, wet rag to cool down his paw pads. Panting is one of the last signs of heat exhaustion. Leaving a large tub out with several inches of water is another way to encourage your ferrets to

cool themselves by swimming. Make sure that your animals can get out when they're tired, and never leave more than an inch or two in the bottom of the tub. Other than that, you can mist them down with a spray bottle, or dampen their bedding to keep them cool. Ferrets do not do well in temps over 80F. Please never leave any animal alone in a car, as even "just a minute" could result in the death of your pet.

Over the Bridge

We would like to remember those fuzzies who brought so much joy into our lives and others. The time they spent with us was too short.

Salt—Salt was loved and will be dearly missed by Jeff and Cara. Salt was a single ferret, attached to Cara and her slippers. He was so full of love and crossed the bridge too soon.

Hannah—This little girl came to us from her previous owner who was moving and did not have time for her. She was an elderly lady, around 6 years old, that had multiple health issues. She passed in the arms of her foster mom.

Skippy—Skippy came to Cara and Jeff who tried their best to overcome her health issues. Years of illness finally took its toll. She was loved dearly and will be missed.

Tank—When this guy was dropped at the Shelter with his 4 siblings, Jeff knew right away that this big guy would be our

newest addition. Unfortunately, Tank took on the stress of all of his siblings and passed away with all of his siblings around him. He is dearly missed by Jeff and Cara and his brothers and sisters.

Gozer—Gozer found his way to Megan after the loss of his cagemate. He suffered from an intestinal obstruction, and had starved himself because of it. That coupled with a heart difficulties eventually overcame this brave little soul. He goes to the bridge with much love.

Bandit—Bandit lived at the shelter with her sister for several months. She was sick on and off during that time, so went home with Megan. She as showing marked improvement during the week preceding her passing, however suffered a stroke and was helped to the bridge with many tears.

Cinnamon—Mini was a paraplegic ferret who needed assistance using the litter pan. Lorayne scheduled her life around this sweet little man, and loved him to pieces.

Megan—Megan was an old lady who was attacked by a dog and nursed back to health by Lorayne. She lived happily amongst a group that loved her, and will be sorely missed.

Lorayne and Liane have been trained to give medications and fluids by injection to ferrets, and both have spent many sleepless nights caring for these 'special needs' ferrets.

... New Arrivals!

Hershey & Marshmellow—These 2 ferrets, a 3 1/2 year old dark eyed white and two year old light sable are always ready to play. They are very loving and are entertaining to watch.

Mina—Mina arrived at he Shelter in the Fall. She is an older ferret and can be a little nippy at times. She plays hard & loves attention.

Moose & Martini—Moose is a 1 yr old sable male and Martini is a wisp of a 3 year old sable female. Both are very sweet, but because of Martini's frail stature, it is important that their new owners are experienced. Both are very playful and very sweet.

Cinnamon—A fun active 1 year old sable, she needs an experienced ferret owner due to the fact she is a bit nippy.

Eva & Dolly—Again, two great ferrets, both about 1 yr old, who would love some attention and kisses.

Peggy & Nibbles—Both 2 yr old sables, they are active ferrets, who love to play and hide things.

Frick & Manuel—These 4 year old albinos are in need of a Foster home. Frick has had surgery for adrenal disease and they are both in need of someone who will spend some quality time with them.

Garrett & Spencer—2 fun loving ferrets, full of energy, they are losing their home due to their owner's diagnosis with cancer. Do you have a place for them in yours?

Ashley & Ryan—New to the shelter, these fun loving ferrets (both 10 months old) love to play. They are full of energy and need someone who will spend lots of time with them.

Sassy & Knemo—2 three year old ferrets, this sable and dark eyed white love to go for walks on a leash. They are great with children and have lost their home only due to the fact their owners are moving.

Latte & Cappucino—These 2 two year old ferrets look like twins. They are light sables who are very attached to each other. They get along great with other ferrets and would love to be adopted together or to join another ferret.

Ashley, Spazz & Bear—3 ferrets all under a year old, they need someone who has lots of time to play with them. They love cats and have a great time playing with each other.

Amaretto—This sweet 1 year old male is very gentle and loving. He is a bigger boy and loves to give kisses.

Spunky & Doodles—These two ferrets, 3 years of age, are big fun and very active. One of them has adrenal cancer, but you would never know it! They are as active and fun as all of the other ferrets with them. They're looking for a foster home.

Merrick & Lady MacBeth—Merrick & Lady MacBeth have had a rough go at life. They've survived a fire only to be plagued with adrenal cancer. They're looking for a foster to spoil them rotten.

Bandit 3— This older ferret is very sweet and loving. She needs a foster home who will shower her with kisses.

Washington Ferret Rescue and Shelter
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We're on the Web!
www.washingtonferret.org

A 501(c)3 non-profit organization

Yes, I want to help Washington Ferret Rescue!

Enclosed is my donation of:

- \$5.00 ()
- \$10.00 ()
- \$15.00 ()
- \$20.00 ()
- Other ()

Please make your donation payable to
Washington Ferret Rescue and mail to:

965 148th Dr. SE
Bellevue WA 98007

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:

1. Blankets, sheets, anything that the
ferrets might use to cuddle up in.
2. Wood stove pellets (i.e. those found at
The Grange in Issaquah for example)
3. Any cages or carriers
4. Volunteers to wash laundry
5. Walking and playing with the ferrets
during the sunny, warm months
6. Ferret Food (Totally Ferret & 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:
