

Paws-It!

Washington Ferret Rescue & Shelter

Volume 21 Issue 1

Shelter Update

Please note that the shelter will **not** be attending Conifur this year. Hopefully, we will be returning next year! If you are still interested in attending, the Conventions's website is www.conifur.org.

The first annual Oktoberfest was a total success! The event raised \$2,500 for the shelter and we were able to momentarily pay all of our veterinary bills in full. Thank you Hella & Dave for all of your work in making this event such a success! Thank you as well to all of the companies and individuals that donated items for the auction. And finally, thank you to all of the volunteers that attended and helped with the set-up. You are so appreciated!

Did you know that the shelter spent \$8,700

in medical bills in 2004? We have already accumulated \$3,777 this year and have about \$700 in outstanding veterinary bills currently.

On a positive note, however, our average monthly deposits are around \$2,090 this year and have increased over



\$70 each month from 2004!

To date, (October 5th, 2005), the shelter has adopted 108 ferrets into new homes and has placed 24 ferrets in permanent foster care. Way to go team! Thank you once again to all of our

fabulous shelter staff and temporary & permanent foster homes. We could not do this without you!

Are you interested in taking a more active role at the shelter? We have openings at the shelter itself doing general maintenance (janitorial tasks and/or hosting play time), holding adoption events for the shelter at local pet and feed stores, and even virtual opportunities to help the shelter by writing grants, organizing fundraisers, soliciting donations, etc. Please let us know if you might be interested by emailing us at washingtonferret@yahoo.com, or you can view our volunteer opportunities at Volunteer Match by clicking on their banner on our site.

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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?

Wanted: Teen Supervisor & Ferret Wranglers!

Our shelter operates solely by volunteer assistance. We have an opening for a teen supervisor on Saturday whose primary responsibility will be to supervise all the teen helpers and assure that all daily tasks are completed. This frees up some of regular shelter staff to assist with adoptions, with the veterinarian, etc. If you are interested, please contact us at washingtonferret@yahoo.com. We also have multiple opportunities to work with the ferrets during the week which can range from cleaning cages to hosting play-times. Please let us know if you'd like to help!

Café Press:

Support your local shelter and get some really neat stuff at: <http://www.cafepress.com/wfrs> Check out the latest in Shelter fashions, bumper stickers and coffee mugs all with our logo! Proceeds go to support our shelter and all that money goes directly right back to the ferrets.

Got Ferrets?:

Help advertise & support our shelter at the same time by applying this cute window decal (pictured right) to your car! The decals are \$5 a piece and are available at our shelter or we will ship one to you if you email your address to washingtonferret@yahoo.com.



Forum:

Don't forget that the shelter has a forum where ferret owners can get together & chat. Please visit <http://www.network54.com/Forum/412133>

Let 'em 'dook' it out?

Ferrets are like potato chips, you cannot have just one ... but what if your ferrets are not as accepting of new ferrets as you'd like them to be? Here are some strategies to help everybody get along.

Begin by bathing all ferrets with the same shampoo. Ferrets that smell the same are less likely to go after each other, and since misery always loves company, they can all suffer a bath together.

Likewise, taking them all out on leashes to roll around in the grass will have them all smelling earthy, and will also wear them out, so they're more likely to grudgingly accept each other's presence without too many complaints.

Introducing the ferrets in a neutral area is key. Choose a room that your ferrets do not usually get to play in, like your bathroom,

or even setting up a playpen in a new area outside will work. This is important, because you've brought another ferret into *their* home and *their* territory. It is easier to get to know each other on neutral turf before having the



strange ferret explore the resident ferret's play area, toys & bedding and expecting them to share nicely.

The longer your ferret has been

without a ferrety friend, the more difficult this process can be. He/she may not even realize that he/she is a ferret if it has been years and years and he/she is very closely bonded to you, the human.

If it is clear the introduction is going to be a difficult one, drizzling Ferretone on all the ferrets' scruffs will have them licking each other instead of biting. This way they will become familiar with each other's smells in a positive context and will learn that seeing/smelling the new ferret means good things are headed their way!

Conversely, if you want to discourage biting or licking all together, Bitter Apple applied to the scruff may deter a 'bully', and it's a great way to deter chewers from eating things they shouldn't.

Ferrets are persistent, but they are not unintelligent. Putting the



ferret in an empty (read: boring) carrier for a short time out (1-2 minutes) when he/she cannot play nicely, particularly where he/she can see all the other ferrets out having fun will have him/her on his/her best behavior shortly!

A reminder verbal “no” will help, but is not always 100% effective. Sometimes ferrets are just deaf to that word, and you may have to go pick up the ferret and remove him/her from the situation.

Some people have found that a quick zap with a squirt bottle is particularly helpful, especially when that little word is not working so well.

Putting a brand new toy out for them to investigate like a new tube, rice box, or something as cheap as some old 12-pack soda boxes will have them busily investigating instead of worrying about each other too much. Washing their old toys will remove familiar scents and can make them more interesting than they once were.

Normal & acceptable interactions can range from everybody getting along happily to some fussing, squeaking and grabbing at scruffs. Remember that ferrets do have tougher skin than we do, so if there is no blood, no screaming and no fear pooping (pooping

at the sight of another ferret), it’s probably safe to let them work things out together and quite literally let them “dook” it out. Initial play sessions should be supervised so you can break up any tiffs should they happen.

We do not recommend that you get your fingers in the middle of a ferret fight since you are liable to get bitten, however, dousing both ferrets with water is a quick way to break up a scuffle. You can use the hose on your sink, or a large amount of water to surprise them into letting go of each other. You can also keep a heavy towel nearby so you can pick up the fer-



rets and put them in the sink if needed.

Placing the ferrets’ cages together and swapping bedding between the two cages will help the ferrets become comfortable with each other’s smells without requiring you being there to supervise their interactions.

I have also heard of some people moving a sleeping ferret into the cage with the other ferrets, but have not managed to not wake all the ferrets up in the process when attempting this! Usually the ferrets are drowsy and more apt to

get along for short periods when they first wake up. Doing this repeatedly will allow them to get used to the idea of another ferret in their sleep-sack in a positive context—*what could be more positive than dreamland?*

It will likely take some time, and repeated attempts to get your fuzzies to get along well together, but it can be done. Be just a smidge more stubborn than your ferret and you will ultimately be happy with the results. Pick a few of the aforementioned methods, be consistent, and the ferrets will eventually figure things out.

You are welcome to visit us at the shelter, post on our forum, or email us at washing-tonferret@yahoo.com if you need further assistance with your ferrets, and hopefully we can help you out! Shelter volunteers have quite a bit of experience in encouraging ferrets to cohabitate.

You could also board your ferrets together with one of our volunteers and they will oversee the introductions in a completely neutral location. That way you won’t have to hear any of the arguments, and the playtime will be supervised and safe for all your ferrets.



Ferrets Seeking Homes ...

Adoptable Ferrets

Please see our [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).

Bailey (silver blaze, m) & **Margarita** (DEW, f) are cute & friendly ferrets. Margarita can be a bit nippy and will need an experienced owner. Bailey is a wild-man that loves to dance up a storm.



Bones & **Widget** could not stay in their home and have come to the shelter to be adopted. Bones is a 2 year old silver/sable boy and Widget is a 2 year old dark sable boy. They are sweet, sweet boys and would make great first ferrets for someone.

Boris is a sable male that doesn't 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!

Buffy is a 3 year old chocolate female & **Spike** is a 3 year old chocolate male. They are very sweet ferrets and all they need now is a home. Won't you come visit them?

Sosa is a feisty champagne girl that isn't terribly fond of other

ferrets & **Cartman** is an adorable lug of a boy that enjoys cuddling with his humans and playing with his buddy.

Charlie, Wafer & Waffles were turned over to our shelter from Animal Control. They seem like sweethearts and we'd love to see them get a new home.

Cicero is a cute dark sable boy and **Dip** is a sweet black mitt boy who lives up to his name (*ahem*!). Both ferrets are extremely nice and would make someone a fun pair. Come visit them today!

Cocoa (dark sable, f) & **Honey** (choc, f) are sweet, sweet girls. They were spoiled rotten in their former home and would love to return to a situation just like that. Are you wanting a nice pair of girls to join your family?

Dweezil (1.5y sable m), **Wild Thing** (1 yr dark sable m) & **Bear** (1 yr albino m) were all surrendered together. They like other ferrets, and are a fun & silly group. They can be adopted with other ferrets or as pairs.

Ike is a 4 year old sable male & **Sara** is a 2.5 year old chocolate girl. They have just arrived at our shelter and we are getting to know them.

Isis is as cute as a button, but has a bad habit of biting. She will need to go to a ferret-savvy home where she will be understood.

Jeff, despite her name is a girl. She & **Stony** are twin sable girls that are looking for a new home. Their owner couldn't keep



them, gave them to a friend and now they're here. We'd love to find them a happy, permanent home of their own!

Jerry is an older chocolate boy with a crooked nose and **Kayla** is a younger, mellow girl. Both ferrets do well with others and are as sweet as can be.

Kyky is a 1 year old chocolate female. She gets along well with other ferrets and would happily move into any group. Come see her today!

Oh my gosh, what a cute little lug of a ferret! **Kyle** is a 9 month old albino ferret that still has his baby chub. He is such a nice boy and would make a wonderful ferret for someone. Come see him today!

Lucy is a tiny silver female that is around 4 years old. Lucy gets along well with kitties, but not as





well with other ferrets. She would prefer to be an only ferret, but can be convinced to spend time with others.

Maria and **Desperado** are 3 year old chocolate colored ferrets. They get along well with other ferrets and would love a new home.

Marlin, Baby G & Scratchy all came in together. They all like other ferrets as well as each other. They can be adopted with one of their buddies or into homes with other ferrets.

Mercury & Mars are 2 year old dark sable boys. Mercury can be a bit nippy, but we feel he'll get better with some work. Mars is a sweetheart. Both boys are micro-chipped, neutered & have been vaccinated.

Mindy needs an experienced home. She only liked her buddy, which she was not surrendered with and tries to attack the other ferrets. We would like to place her in a child-free home with a ferret savvy owner.

Ranger (sable, m) & **Peaches** (albino, f) were surrendered together. They are both around 2-3 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. They do not care for other ferrets, and will need to be an only pair.

Samus (m, silver sable), **Conkers** (f, DEW) & **Desi** (f, sable) were surrendered to our shelter together. They are 3 years old and must be adopted together as a group. They'd love to find a new home soon!

Spaz is a 1.5 year old silver blaze male. He seems to play just fine with others, but can also go as a single ferret. He has been neutered and is up to date on vaccines.

Toodles is a 3 year old dark sable girl that doesn't care for other ferrets. She loves people though and spent all day playing with the volunteers and being a lap ferret. Are you looking for a sweet girl to join your family?

Vinny & Shelby are chubby white cuties! Vinny loves to play and Shelby is a total princess ferret. They are between the ages of 2-4 years of age and would make a fun pair for just about anyone!

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 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.

Buster is an elderly ferret with adrenal disease. Buster is a very sweet boy that doesn't handle life changes well. He will need someone to baby him like crazy while he settles into your home. Are you that person?

Mish & Mash are twin sable boys. Mish is a sweetheart and is very cuddly. His brother, Mash, can bite 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. Both are being treated with Lupron for adrenal disease and are doing just great.

Prince & Princess are wonderful ferrets. Prince is a chocolate dookball (quite literally!) and Princess is a beautiful dark-eyed white girl. 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.



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:
