

# Ferret Care Sheet

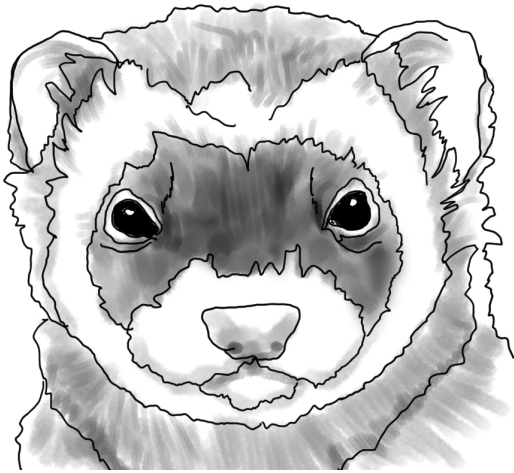


**Your Pets Super Store**

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Congratulations on your new pet. Ferrets have inquisitive personalities that make them entertaining companions. They are highly intelligent and need considerable amounts of training and attention to prevent them from getting into mischief. A ferret can live singly, provided it receives ample attention, or with others. Given appropriate care, a ferret will live from six to ten years. Domestic ferrets usually have brown, black, white or mixed fur.

## GENERAL-----

Ferrets need daily out of cage play time in a ferret proof area. They can squeeze through gaps as small as 2" x 2", so block all spaces under appliances, heaters and furniture. A Marshall's ferret pen will work well to give a safe place to play. Also remove spongy objects like erasers, foam pillows, sponges, styrofoam or anything that could cause an obstruction if swallowed. Ferrets also love to collect and hoard small items they find around your home. Beware of bathtubs and other open containers of liquids which pose drowning hazards. Ferrets can also open cabinets and drawers, so secure them! Safe toys such as tubes and tunnels, ferret toys like the Tumble Toy and balls will provide hours of fun. Young children should always be supervised by an adult when handling pets, to avoid accidental injuries to pet or child. Ferrets do not mix well with most other pets, never leave them alone together. Herbivores, such as hamsters, mice, rabbits and guinea pigs are a ferrets natural prey. Provide your ferret with a litter box if he is out of the cage for long periods. Ferrets are most active at dawn and dusk; they spend much of the day sleeping.

## HOUSING-----

For one or two ferrets choose a solid floored cage, as large as possible, to provide a safe place when they are not enjoying free exercise in your home. Aquariums and wire-floored cages are not suitable. Ferrets enjoy multi-level cages, which suit their playful natures. They wake up often throughout the day and will need to expend some energy before their next nap. Platforms, hidey-houses and soft sleeping areas, such as hanging tubes or hammocks keep your ferret busy and comfortable. Provide your ferret with a heavy crock food dish or a hopper and a water bottle. Change toys frequently so they do not get bored.

## DIET-----

Ferrets are obligate carnivores. A healthy diet is based on premium ferret food containing 30-35% protein, primarily from animal sources and 15-20% fat. Most adult cat foods do not meet a ferrets needs and are therefore unsuitable. Avoid foods containing mineral oil and large amounts of vegetable fillers. Dry food and fresh water should be available at all times. Ferret treats can be used in moderation. 8 in 1 brand Ferret Bites are

a good treat. Avoid giving your ferret treats high in grains and sugars. Furo-tone can be given to your ferret to keep it's skin and coat in top condition.

## **CLEANING**-----

You may occasionally wish or need to give your ferret a bath. Use a ferret or small animal shampoo like Ferret Sheen. Do not bathe your ferret too frequently. Your ferret will also need it's nails clipped periodically. One of our pet care specialists can explain how to do that. We also offer a nail clipping service at the store for a minimal fee. Ferrets can be litter trained. A corner litter box with pellet type litter like Marshall's Ferret litter, or Cellsorb works best. Do not use cedar or scented cat litter. Remove soiled litter daily and change the bedding weekly. Fresh water should be provided daily. The litter-box, food dish, water bottles and cage bottom all need to be washed weekly. Cage Wizard Plus is a good product for cleaning your ferrets cage. Use a bottle brush and hot water to clean out the water bottle. Always rinse and dry the cage well before returning your pets.

## **HEALTH**-----

Your ferret should also be vaccinated against rabies. Find a veterinarian with experience in treating ferrets and schedule annual check-ups. Be alert for signs of illness or injury and consult your vet if you notice something unusual.

## **FERTILITY**-----

Consult one of our pet specialists.

## **CHECKLIST**-----

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> large multi level cage    | <input type="checkbox"/> water bottle               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> heavy food dish or hopper | <input type="checkbox"/> cage bedding               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> high quality ferret food  | <input type="checkbox"/> ferret treats for training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> litter box                | <input type="checkbox"/> litter                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> toys                      | <input type="checkbox"/> soft brush                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> nail clipper / kwik stop  |   |