

Paws-It!

Washington Ferret Rescue & Shelter



Volume 18 Issue 1

Choosing a Veterinarian.

Here is a list of critical things to ask and keep in mind when selecting a prospective veterinarian. Thank you Dr. Kamaka for compiling this list for us!

Has your potential veterinarian had any extra training with ferrets? Ferrets are only briefly covered in vet school, so it is important that your veterinarian has made an extra effort to become informed about ferrets.

How many ferrets does this vet see a week? Or month? Or year? The more ferrets your veterinarian sees, the more likely he or she will be able to help you with yours.

What are your vet's recommendations for Adrenal Disease? Insulinoma? Helicobacter? If your potential vet cannot address these issues, continue your search for one with experience in the very specialized field of ferret medicine.

General healthcare guide-

lines for ferrets over the years:

In the first 2 months to 1 year of age, you'll want to finish the vaccine series (minimum of 2 distemper vaccines, 4 weeks apart after 2 months of age; rabies vaccine at 4 months). New ferret physical exam should include checking for ear mites, fecal parasites, and starting flea control.

Now is the time to ferret-proof the house / environment to prevent traumas, escape and foreign body ingestion. Also to be discussed should be interactions with other household animals, small children and people with mobility difficulties and their interactions with the ferret.

2-3 years: annual physical exam with dental exam, ear mite check and fecal parasite exam (if outdoors or around other animals); annual distemper and rabies vaccines (not at the same time!), hormone panel baseline (males in Jan, females in Feb/Mar).

3-4 years: annual physical exam with dental exam, ear mite check and fecal parasite exam (if outdoors or around other animals); dental care if needed, annual distemper and rabies (not at the same time!), hormone panel baseline (males in Jan, females in Feb/Mar), baseline radiographs to check heart size, baseline blood profile.

4-5 years: annual physical exam with dental exam, ear mite check and fecal parasite exam (if outdoors or around other animals); dental care if needed, annual distemper and rabies (not at the same time!), hormone panel baseline (males in Jan, females in Feb/Mar), annual radiographs, annual ferret blood profile, ultrasound for cardiac and/or other organ system disease, cardiac workup if indicated.

5+ years: annual physical exam with dental exam, treat any discovered diseases and be happy that you have a senior ferret! Good job!

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How to Contact Us!

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What's New?

What's New:

This April kicked off our **First Annual Spring Appeal**. Thank you for responding! If you haven't sent in your donation as yet, we encourage you to help with the growing needs of the Ferret Shelter by making your contribution now! Please make out your check to WFRS and return it in the self-addressed

stamped envelope included in the appeal letter sent to you. If you did not receive a letter and would like to contribute, please use the PayPal option on our web site, or mail your check directly to the Shelter. We have a huge population of ferrets at the Shelter and we need additional caging to accommodate them. Your money will help fund new caging

and many other needs, such as medication, food and litter. Thank you!

Ferret Frolic:

Please join us at Exotic Pet & Bird's Annual Ferret Frolic on Sunday, June 26th at Kirkland's Marina Park. Directions & more info can be found at: www.exopet.com.

Moving with Pets.

At the Shelter, one of the top reasons for surrendering a ferret is a no-pets policy. Some landlords are better about allowing small, "caged" animals than others. Nevertheless, if you are shopping for a new home, please read this before you decide to move! Most of the following article is cat/dog oriented, but many of us also have other animals along with the ferrets, and it is sound advice to all pet owners.

Article from: <http://www.hsus.org/>

13 Steps to Finding Pet-Friendly Rental Housing

1. Give yourself enough time. Nobody likes the hassles involved with moving, much less finding rental housing that accepts pets. If you are renting now, start to check ads and contact real estate agents and rental agencies at least six weeks before your lease expires.

2. Understand why many housing communities reject pets. Put yourself in the shoes of a landlord, housing manager, property owner, or condominium association board member for a moment: They may have had bad experiences with irresponsible pet owners who didn't safely confine their animals or pick up their feces, sneaked pets in, or left ruined carpets and drapes when they moved out. They may be worried about complaints from neighbors about barking dogs and wonder how they are going to deal

effectively with pet owners if problems arise. All these concerns are legitimate. That's why people looking for an apartment, house, or condominium to rent must be able to sell themselves as responsible pet owners, who are committed to providing responsible pet care and being responsible neighbors.

3. Make use of available resources. Contact the humane society or animal care and control agency serving the area into which you are moving; the agency may be able to provide you with a list of apartment communities that allow pets. If you know any real estate agents, rental agents, or resident managers who own pets themselves or who share your love of animals, ask them for leads. While there is no substitute for making a professional connection with someone who understands how important your pet is to you, look for a community apartment guidebook at the supermarket or near newspaper distribution boxes on the street. The guide may indicate which apartment communities allow pets and may list any restrictions, such as species allowed or weight limits. In addition, be sure to check local newspapers. Finally, take a look at our links to sites that list pet-friendly apartments across the country.

4. Recognize that it may be futile to try to sell yourself and your pet to a large rental community with a no-pets policy. You're more likely to be successful if you focus

on places that allow most pets, allow certain pets (for example, cats or dogs weighing less than 20 pounds), or that don't say, "Sorry, no pets." Individual home and condominium owners may be easiest to persuade. Ideally, look for a community with appropriate pet-keeping guidelines that specify resident obligations. That's the kind of place that's ideal for pet owners because you'll know that other pet caregivers there also are committed to being responsible residents.

5. Gather proof that you're responsible. The more documentation you can provide attesting to your conscientiousness as a pet owner, the more convincing your appeal will be to your future landlord. Compile the following documents: A letter of reference from your current landlord or condominium association verifying that you are a responsible pet owner. Written proof that your adult dog has completed a training class, or that your puppy is enrolled in one. A letter from your veterinarian stating that you have been diligent in your pet's medical care. Supply documentation that your pet has been spayed or neutered and vaccinated against rabies. (Sterilized pets are healthier, calmer, and far less likely to be a nuisance to neighbors.) Most veterinarians routinely fulfill such requests for their clients.

6. Make your request to the individual or group with the ultimate

authority to grant your request. Usually this will be the owner of the house or apartment. The owner may, however, delegate the decision to a property manager or resident manager. Check to see if, in addition to obtaining the landlord's approval, you must also submit a written request to the building's board of directors (or association, in the case of a condominium community).

7. If you encounter a no-pets policy, ask if it is the result of a negative experience with a previous resident. Addressing your landlord's prior experience may show you how to present your own request most effectively.

8. Let the landlord, manager, or condominium board know that you share any concerns about cleanliness. Point out that your pet is housetrained or litter-box trained. Emphasize that you always clean up after your dog outdoors and that you always properly dispose of your pet's waste.

9. Promote yourself. Responsible pet owners make excellent residents. Because they must search harder for a place to live, pet caregivers are more likely to stay put. Lower vacancy rates mean lower costs and fewer headaches for landlords and real estate agents. Let prospective landlords and managers know that you understand that

living with a companion animal is a privilege, not a right.

10. Promote your pet. Offer to bring your pet to meet the owner or property manager, or invite the landlord to visit you and your pet in your current home. A freshly groomed, well-behaved pet will speak volumes. Emphasize that the same pride you take in caring for your pet extends to taking care of your home. Many landlords are concerned about fleas, so be sure to let your prospective landlord know that you maintain an active flea-control program for your pet and home. Provide written proof that your pet is spayed or neutered and is, therefore, healthier, calmer, and less likely to be a nuisance.

Make it clear to the landlord, manager, or condominium board that you keep your cat inside and your dog under control at all times and that you understand the health and safety benefits of doing so.

If you can't arrange for a meeting, consider making a short scrapbook with photos of your pampered pet in his or her current home, and/or draw up a résumé for your pet. Scrapbooks and résumés are unique ideas that are guaranteed to make a strong, yet positive, impression.

11. Be willing to pay a little extra. Tell your prospective landlord or resident manager that you are

willing to pay an extra security deposit to cover any damages your pet might make to the property.

12. Get it in writing. Once you have been given permission by a landlord, manager, or condominium committee to have a pet, be sure to get it in writing. Sign a pet addendum to your rental agreement. Comprehensive agreements protect people, property, and the pets themselves. If your lease has a no-pets clause, verbal approval won't be enough. The no-pets clause should be removed from the lease (or crossed out and initialed) before you sign it. Be sure it has been removed from or crossed out on your landlord's copy, too.

You may be required to pay a pet deposit, some or all of which may be nonrefundable. Be sure to discuss deposits and monthly pet-related fees in advance. And have these fees put into writing, too. Request a copy of any house rules pertaining to pets. Let the landlord know that you will abide by the rules set for the broader community and respect the concerns of residents who do not own pets.

13. Be honest. Don't try to sneak your pet in. Keeping an animal in violation of a no-pets rule contributes to the general inclination of landlords not to allow pets. You also may be subject to possible eviction or other legal action.

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

Freya was a sweet, old lady with an endearing floppy leg. She was treated for adrenal disease for a long time at the Shelter and she did really well for many years. She passed in her sleep one evening with her buddies curled all around her. Sincere condolences go out to her family. Charity, Jason & Cassie loved her so very much.

Roxy was a feisty stripey-headed girl. She has gone on to be with her brother who passed before her. Hugs to Charity, Jason and Cassie for her as well. She will be greatly missed.

Our hearts go out to Cindy & family over the loss of Grandpa. He was a very old

boy who had such spirit. Thank you for taking him and loving him until the end of his days.

Hugs to Kristin & Sebastian. Sarah-Stink took a big chunk of their hearts when she left. We are so very sorry for her loss.

We wanted to thank Kristin for fostering Pooh, who passed away recently. They fought the good fight against the tumor that took over his little body together. Thank you for loving him and giving him a home.

Rhonda & Rick said goodbye to their sweet boy, Alex. Alex knew how much

he was loved, please never doubt that. You did a wonderful job as ferret parents and he could not have asked for anything more.

Dobby passed away rather unexpectedly, which always makes a loss even harder than it possibly can be. We share that sadness with Ross & Leanna. Thank you for adopting him and giving him such a wonderful home. He was such a special boy.

My little Nibbles passed away recently. She was an old lady that we adopted from the Shelter years ago. I'm so glad she was able to have a happy life with us.

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.



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.

Bob is a 1 year old sable boy and **Wally** is a chubby mitted sable that's only around 6 months. Both are just adorable and play well with other ferrets. All they need now is a new home!

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!

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 are great with people.

Daemon is a very nice albino boy that's around 4 years old. He enjoys the company of humans and would like to go to a new home without other ferrets.

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.

Bandito is a chunky-monkey of a boy. He loves other ferrets and

would do wonderfully in group. He has a sweet personality & loves to give kisses.

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 great 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 6 months old and are just as cute as cute can be. They won't be here long!

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.

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.

Oozie & **Silver** are two fluffy white boys. They just arrived at our Shelter and are as sweet as sweet can be. Come see them soon!

Pickles is a cute, young boy. He likes other ferrets and would be happy to move in with most any group.



Pishka is a 1 year old silver male and **Kyky** is a 1 year old chocolate female.

Both get along well with other ferrets and would happily move into any group. Come see them today!

Ranger (sable, m) & **Peaches** (albino, f) were just recently surren-

dered. 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.



Ron, Sugar, Spice & **Hermie** are all sable ferrets between the ages of 2 and 4 years of age. They play well with others, are all very sweet and even play nicely with kitties. They would love to go to a home together, but can be split in pairs if necessary.

Sasha (choc, f), **Aaliyah** (choc, f) & **Apricot** (albino, f) are sweet girls that are between 2.5-3 yrs of age. They're sweet with people and with other ferrets. We'd love to find them a home where they can stay together since they've become pretty close buddies.

This duo of girls is packed with fun. **Scout** is a 1-1.5 year old sable girl and **Silver** is a 1-1.5 year old silver blaze girl. They are feisty & cute and just need a new home!

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) & **Phoenix** (m, sable) are two sweet boys that are looking for a new home. They're around 2 years old and are sweet-hearts.

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 this Spring.

Tiny is a 4 year old albino male & **Etta** is a 1 year old dark sable female. They have just arrived at our

Shelter and we are just getting to know them. More details to be posted soon.

Walter (m) & **Miss Weasel** (f) are two very sweet & cuddly fuzzkids. They just arrived at our Shelter and made themselves right at home in the arms & hoods of our volunteers.



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.

Mischief is a 5+ year old ferret. She will need to take medication twice daily, and would love to be fed soup regularly in a warm & loving 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.

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. Mish has a lobe on his spleen that will need to be removed surgically & Mash has a lobe on his left adrenal that will also need to come out. We'll be during surgery on these boys in the next month or so.



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. Precious can be nippy at times, and will need to go to a home without small children. Precious was recently diagnosed with adrenal disease and will need to come back to the Shelter once each month for a Lupron shot.



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.

Snoball is an adorable albino female. She has little to no hair on her back and has been started on Lupron. She will need to return to the Shelter once each month for an injection.

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. Susie is not fond of other ferrets and would like to go to a home where she can be an only child.



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:

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