

Paws-It!

Washington Ferret Rescue & Shelter



Volume 16 Issue 1

A look back and a look forward...

2004 has literally flown by! It was another wonderful year here at WFRS. We saw 138 healthy ferrets into new homes and placed over a dozen ferrets in permanent foster care. We're absolutely thrilled to be a part of so many happy beginnings!

Thank you, once again, to all of our wonderful volunteers that faithfully come and help each week. You had a hand in every one of those adoptions—take pride in that!

Last year marked the beginning of our monthly educational meetings. Dr. Cathy provided us with a very informative Ferret 101 training class and another on Ferret First Aid. If you haven't attended one of our meetings, please think about joining us! Our meetings are on

the second Tuesday of every month at 7PM in the South County PUD building in Edmonds.



We've covered a lot of ground in one little year. We've participated in a number of Adoption Days at local pet stores to help spread the word about Rescue and all that it has to offer. We attended the Ferret Frolic, hosted by Exotic Pet & Bird, and will be putting on the Frolic this coming year! We attended Conifur (a convention featuring anthropomor-

Written by Megan Reuther

phic art & media) and showed off our furkids to the public. We participated in the feeding trials for Oxbow's new Carnivore Care—our fuzzies give it the paws up! We also took a close look at Helicobacter and all the gastro-intestinal woes ferrets are prone to. We've come up with a lot of very functional treatments and are very pleased with the results.

2005 will be the year of relocating! It seems we've gotten just a little too big for our current space! We'll be needing help to fix-up our old space as well as our new one. Watch our website for details!

From all of us here at WFRS, we wish you a happy and healthy New Year.

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Pass the bubbly!

How to Contact Us!

Shelter Voicemail:
206.442.2025

Shelter Email:
washingtonferret@yahoo.com

Website:
<http://washingtonferret.org>

What's New?

Membership Meeting:

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.

Christmas CDs:

We have just a few CDs left, so if you've been wanting one, here's your chance! Now just \$7 per CD! Includes Poofy Tails (Jingle Bells), Up on the Countertop, The Night Before Christmas & many more. Order

yours today by emailing washingtonferret@yahoo.com

Flu Season:

Ferrets can catch and pass on influenza (the flu). If you're feeling a little under the weather, be sure to wash your hands frequently and stay away from the ferrets if at all possible. If not, make sure to keep them away from your face and watch them carefully for



sign of runny noses, dehydration and/or appetite decrease. If they start displaying any of the above symptoms, be sure to get them in to your vet right away.

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!

What's in your first aid kit?

It's important to be prepared should you have an emergency at your home. We recommend the following supplies as items you should have on-hand in any first aid kit:

Record Sheets (to record date, weight, temp, heart rate, respiratory rate, stool, urine, attitude, amount eating, etc.) Ill ferrets should be weighed daily, healthy ferrets should be weighed often enough to know what normal is for them.

Calculator

Ball-point pen & Sharpie

Gram Scale that can weight down to 1 gram.

Digital thermometer

Nutrical

Butterfly catheters

Lactated Ringers

Vial of 50% dextrose

18 or 19ga needle for drawing large volumes of fluids.

20-30mL syringe for fluids and

one for feedings

3 mL and 1 mL syringes for orals

Metacam Oral

Carivore Care

Pepto Bismol liquid—we recommend you store this in the refrigerator as it tastes a little better when cold. There is also a new cherry flavor out that seems to go down a little better.

Pepcid AC tablets

Children's Benedryl liquid

Rubbing alcohol & cotton balls for cleaning bottle tops

Quik-stop or like product

Q-tips

Sterile eye-wash

Clinics:

Bird & Exotic Clinic of Seattle; 4019 Aurora Ave N, Seattle 98103; 206-783-4538; Dr. Cathy Johnson-Delaney, Dr. Elizabeth Kamaka

Exotic Pet & Bird Clinic; 903 5th Ave,

Kirkland 98033; 425-827-6613; Dr. Cathy Johnson Delaney, Dr. Keith Vogel

After Hours Clinics:

Veterinary Specialty Center of Seattle; 20115 44th Ave W, Lynnwood 98036; 425-697-6106; Dr. Jennifer Graham

Animal Critical Care and Emergency; 11536 Lake City Way NE, Seattle 98125; 206-364-1560



Open Door Slowly... Ferrets on the Loose!



Open Door Slowly ... Ferrets on the Loose!

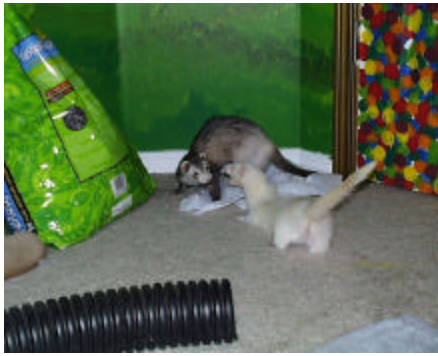
This sign is frequently displayed on my office door at work these days. It started as just wanting to show them off, and who couldn't benefit from a little pet therapy on any given day?

The adventure started with a little trip to the Washington Ferret Rescue at the request of my son to "just to take a look". I was never keen on the

Written by: Cheri Eltrich

idea. I tried to talk some sense into him. "They are smelly and messy", "they take a lot of work", "they have to have big, complex cages and lots of play time". None of this seemed to discourage him. Since he was eighteen, I couldn't really tell him no. I did make it clear that they would be *his* responsibility, and not to expect me to pay for them or to care for them.

We were shown a bunch of home-



less little guys, and I could see they were very cute. To make a long story short, we did not leave without taking two ferrets, Enzo and Weezer, a cage, and supplies with us. The worst part was, we had to cram a large cage and two boys in the back seat of a compact car...then drive all the way to Spanaway!

My son began by having me come into his room when he had them out of their cages. They scared me. I could hold them, but they kept doing these sideways jumps that looked



threatening, and I was just sure they were going to attack at any moment. I had to wear shoes, because the youngest would bite my feet and then run off. He never broke the skin, but I was sure he might one day. Then it happened; my son spent a week at his grandparents house and I was "stuck" caring for the little weasels. As the days went on, I came to realize that the little sideways jumping was a happy ferret war dance, and the bites on the ankle was a plea to come chase!

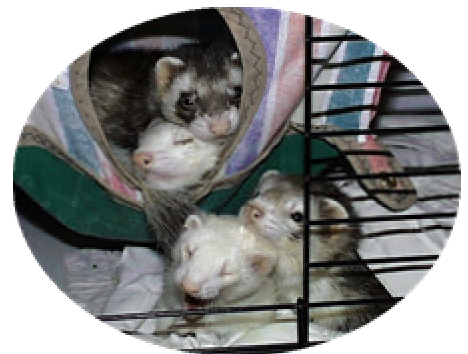
As time went on, these little guys won over every family member. First they moved out into the living room, so they could be with the rest of the family. Then they got the run of the whole house when they were let out to play. Next came the really BIG cage, hooked by tubes to the smaller cage. Then came the addition of a baby "sister" that we couldn't resist from a local pet store. Does it ever end?

I work at a nursing home, and the Humane Society brings in pets for pet therapy. The residents really thrive on having pets to cuddle. But, due to lack of volunteers, they have to cancel on some weeks. I came up with a bright idea to bring in the boys (Tid Bit, the baby girl, can't be trusted not to bite). What a big hit they were! Staff and residents alike really enjoy the little guys. Everyone is so amazed that ferrets don't smell (thanks to the



bath the night before). Everyone may get enjoyment out of seeing the little critters, but I get the rewards in getting to spend extra time with them.

My son is now on the search for more ferrets. The three that I have cared for have been stolen. Don't worry, they are not lost! I am the thief. He reminds me that I never wanted the little fuzzies to join our family, but who can really resist such a cuddly and sweet creature? *Can you blame me?*



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

Sweet Pudgie-boy crossed the bridge this past month. He was spoiled rotten in his foster homes and there is a ferret sized hole in the hearts of all that knew him. Thank you Kristin & Megan S for taking care of our little Pudgie.

Spooky must've at least ten years old, with advanced adrenal disease and insulinoma. His foster mom fed him around the clock and did everything she possibly could for him. Condolences and our thanks to both Hella & Dave over the loss of Spooky.

Luna developed a lump very suddenly. When lumps like that show up, it's never a good sign. She made

it through surgery to remove a massive and highly involved tumor, but sadly passed away a short time later. Thank you again, Hella & Dave, for giving her such a wonderful home.

Cheech was adopted with Chong from our Shelter some years ago. He unfortunately was ill for a long time, and passed away. Our condolences to Ean & Hiromi for his loss. He will be dearly missed.

I (Megan) confess, I let myself fall head over heels for a sweet ferret named Cliff. She was an old-lady ferret that found her way to our Shelter. She underwent a very invasive surgery to remove some of the exter-

nal & internal tumors she was fighting, but the cancer had already metastasized to her lungs and she passed on a while later. I will treasure the memories of her, for she was indeed, a very special girl.



A word about Ferretone:

Although it's a big hit with ferrets, too much of a good thing really isn't a good thing.

From our veterinarian, Dr. Cathy Johnson-Delaney: "Ferretone is not needed nutritionally. It is essentially salad oil with some additional fatty acids. Amounts in excess (even 1 tsp a day) can eventually lead to fat deposition in the liver, in my experience. I had a case of "oil toxicity" in that the ferret was given about 1-3 tsp a day for a number of months and it went toxic. The liver was pure yellow in color. The skin was greasy

and the ferret died.

It has also been shown that fat (oil) and glucose (sugar) directly stimulates acid-reflux in ferrets. Therefore, treats that are a complex food rather than a fat or just a sugar (like raisins, grapes, fruit treats) are better in that they don't stimulate excess acid production, reflux, heartburn, etc. This is the biggest reason, in my opinion, for limiting Ferretone, Linatone, or any other brand of oil.

A single lick as a treat is probably not a problem. Anything more than about 1/8 tsp I would think would be

enough to stimulate acid-reflux (based on quantities given in the studies to produce reflux).

The best treat: a full food bit!"



Ferrets Seeking Homes ...

Adoptable Ferrets



Autumn is a beautiful sable point female. She is between 3-4 years and seems to get along just fine

with other ferrets.

Bandit (m, dark sable), **Frannie** (f, chocolate) & **Elanor** (f, chocolate) came into our Shelter as skeletons. After eating non-stop for a couple of weeks, they are chubby & healthy once again. They enjoy the company of other ferrets and are all between the ages of 1 and 2 years.



Bella is the smallest of the seven ferrets that just arrived at our Shelter. She is a 1 year old sable girl & her buddy, **Stitch**, is a 1 year old sable boy. They get along well with other ferrets and need to be placed together.



Blaze is a 6 year old female that recently lost her buddy. She is at the Shelter waiting for the perfect ferret friend to come along. She gets along well with others and is healthy.

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.

Cybil & Damian are two sweet 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 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.



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



Hemmingway is a 2 year old sable mitt boy, **Zelda** is a 3 year old dark sable female that can be pretty nippy and **Grendel** is an adorable 3 year old chocolate girl.

Houdini (sable, m) is one year old sable male with cute mitted feet. He came in with six other ferrets and can happily join most any play-group.



Jack Sparrow & Jelly are two of seven ferrets that recently 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.



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

Juliette is a beautiful silver girl and **Penelope** is an adorable albino girl. Both ladies are around 4-5 years of age, play well with others and have lovely temperaments.

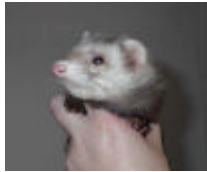


Lilly (champagne, f) is a fun little critter that can find her way out of most cages. She can also be a loner, but is content to live and play with six other ferrets.



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.

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 11.5 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.



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.

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.

Foster Ferrets

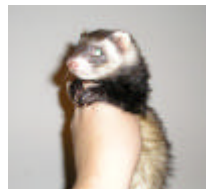
Note: We do not charge an adoption fee for our foster ferrets, though many of them will require a vet visit (or many!) in their golden years. The Shelter provides medical care and any medications that your foster ferret will need in exchange for a monthly donation to help cover your ferret's medical 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.

Hershey (f, chocolate) & **Marshmallow** (m, DEW) are older, but still are a lot of fun. Hershey is the spunky, sassy one and Marshmallow is the laid-back cuddly one. Marshmallow will need to come back to the shelter once a month for a Lupron shot to treat his adrenal disease, but otherwise this duo is good to go! They do not like other ferrets, and must go to a home as only children.

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 any home with him.



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.

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.



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

Prince & **Princess** are wonderful ferrets. Princess has adrenal disease & will need to return to the Shelter once each month for a



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.



Mia is a sweet & active 5 year old sable girl. **Chloe** is a sensitive 3 year old dark sable female that

is currently under evaluation for adrenal disease. And **Mr. Elliott** is a goofy 3 year old champagne boy. These are new ferrets to our Shelter and must go to a home together.

Natasha is a dark sable girl that recently had surgery for a stump pyometra (10/30). She will need to return to the Shelter each month to receive a Lupron injection. Her buddy, **Boris**, is a chocolate male who's playful and silly just as all ferrets should be.



Jackson is a six year old boy who lost his buddy. He would love a home with a friend or two to call his own. Jackson is a total cuddler & would even be happy with a human of his own to watch TV with.

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:
