

Paws-It!

Washington Ferret Rescue & Shelter

Volume 22 Issue 1

Happy Holidooks & Wishes for a Weaselful New Year!

My how the year has flown by once again. This year, to date (December 6th, 2005), the Washington Ferret Rescue & Shelter has adopted 131 ferrets into new homes, and has fostered out 22 into permanent foster care. We blew right on by our annual goal of 100 placements and are continuing to have successes occur each weekend. Many thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers that help out each week, the shelter sure couldn't have done it without you!

We would like to invite you to our Holiday Party & Winter Weasel Wonderland Sale on December 17th from 12pm-4pm. Pick up some last-minute stocking stuffers for your kids (furry & not-so-furry!) and other ferrety goodies such as: seasonal & snuggly ham-

mocks and sleep sacks; toys & tubes; treats and food; shampoos & conditioners; cages & shelves; a wide variety of books and ferret magazines; gift items; greeting cards; harnesses and leashes; and litter boxes & scoopers.



The shelter's most wonderful elves (aforementioned fab volunteers) have been busy cleaning up our used cage supply and making each one look brand new! Bring in your extra cages, parts & pieces to donate and/or upgrade for something new! Sew a few hammocks to do-

nate to the sale ~ we'll even install the grommets! Donations of any kind are most appreciated. Everything goes right back to the ferrets in our care!

If you would like to help with the holiday sale, or have items to donate, please arrive early on the 17th (10am) or you can drop off items on any Saturday during our hours (10am-4pm).

Additionally, Terra has graciously decided to feature the Washington Ferret & Shelter this month. She has the cutest charms, key chains & other holiday items. Please see her fundraising page located at: <http://ferretville.net/terra/fundraiser.html> Her email is firefighters-flame@aol.com if you have any questions.

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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: Pooper scoopers and ferret wranglers!

We have an opening for a Shelter cleaner once a week during the day. Responsibilities include: cleaning boxes, filling water & food, checking on all the ferrets and letting the kids out to play! Nothing too hard! Must have own transportation and be dependable.

We also have a few fuzzies that have not yet learned their manners. If you are an experienced ferret owner and would like to try your hand (or fingers) with some of our biters, we could definitely use your help! Send us an email at washingtonferret@yahoo.com 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 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>

Holiday-proofing your ferrets ...

We don't call them rascally weasels for just any reason! Here at the shelter, we wanted to extend our best wishes for a most wonderful holiday, and a word of caution as well.

Holidays are a busy time of the year for most everyone. Family members are coming and going, people are traveling, etc. If company is coming to your house this year, please make sure that the ferrets are either let out in a se-



cure location or that someone is directly supervising their playtime. Ferrets can slip through an open door so quickly, get into the out-going trash, or get stepped on while carpet sharking under a blanket. For their safety, you may wish to leave them caged during this busy time. A bored ferret, is at least a safe ferret.

We're currently in the cold and flu season, and ferrets can catch influenza! Have your company wash their hands frequently if they're going to be around the ferrets, and keep kids with runny noses away from the ferrets. Should your ferret become ill during the holidays, schedule a vet appointment right away and make sure that your ferret keeps eating in the meantime. A plugged-up nose can lead to appetite decrease if your ferret cannot smell his /her food. Additionally, if your ferret is ill, leave a bowl of water available



for him to drink from; it will cause him to drink more than he would from a water bottle.

Christmas trees plus a wiggly ferret sound like a barrel of laughs, though there are a few cautionary words to extend here as well. Many trees come with a packet of preservatives to make the tree last longer. This is poten-



tially hazardous to your pets, and it is important that your ferrets and other critters not drink from the tree stand.

Despite how boneless our ferrets seem to be, a fall from way up high (from your tree, for example) can result in injury and can send you running to an emergency clinic... which is never fun, nor cheap!

Christmas lights and extension cords are rubbery in texture and as our ferrets tend to be huge fans of rubbery items, they may bite down and burn their mouths, or worse. Bitter apple cream or spray can be applied to the cords, and left over wrapping paper tubes can

be used to run some of the cords through to protect them. If you have a ferret that is particularly fond of rubbery substances, it would be best to keep him/her away from the holiday décor.

Additionally, wrapping paper tubes are not appropriate toys for ferrets. They can get their heads stuck, resulting in suffocation or injury.

If you are traveling this season, and using a pet-sitter, leave your veterinarian's information with your sitter. Ferrets can easily become stressed when their environment changes, and can develop ulcers which can cause them to stop eating, thus plunging them into a downward spiral. Many veterinary offices board ferrets fairly inexpensively, and for your peace of mind, it may be best to leave your ferrets in your veterinarian's care. Call early to arrange for boarding—this is the busy season for pet sitting services and boarding at clinics!

At the shelter, we advocate not giving ferrets as gifts. If you want to surprise someone with a ferret, get him/her all the ferret's sup-

plies and put those under the tree, then the whole family can come down to the shelter and we can match everybody with the perfect ferret for the situation. Ferrets can be a lot of work for an unsuspecting person and we want to make sure that all potential ferret owners (and their parents!) are fully prepared for ferret ownership and what it entails.

Perfect gift items for ferret lovers include ferret t-shirts (eBay!), ferret jewelry, key-chains, cute hammocks and sleep sacks, some extra funds for vet bills, a donation to their favorite shelter, etc. Many cat toys are safe for ferrets, and would make fun stocking stuffers. Ferret sized hats and other costumes make for a fun ferret-torture session and hilarious photos. Digital cameras are a must with ferrets as well, otherwise one burns through film like there's no tomorrow! Smartferret.com carries a fun ferret Christmas CD that is filled with your favorite Christmas tunes ferretized for the holiday. You can also select to add a dollar to your purchase which will come here to WFRS.

—Author Unknown

Gift Wrapping With Ferrets

1. Clear large space on table for wrapping present.
2. Go to closet and collect bag in which present is contained, and shut door.
3. Open door and remove ferret from closet.
4. Go to cupboard and retrieve rolls of wrapping paper.
5. Go back and remove ferret from cupboard.
6. Go to drawer, and collect transparent sticky tape, ribbons, scissors, labels, etc...
7. Lay out presents and wrapping materials on table, to enable wrapping strategy to be formed.
8. Go back to drawer to get string, remove ferret that has been in the drawer since last visit and collect string.
9. Remove present from bag.
10. Remove ferret from bag.
11. Open box to check present, remove ferret from box, replace present.
12. Lay out paper to enable cutting to size.
13. Try and smooth out paper, realize ferret is underneath and remove ferret.



14. Cut the paper to size, keeping the cutting line straight.
15. Throw away first sheet as ferret chased the scissors, and tore the paper.

16. Cut second sheet of paper to size - by putting ferret in the bag the present came in.
17. Place present on paper.
18. Lift up edges of paper to seal in present. Wonder why edges don't reach. Realize ferret is between present and paper. Remove ferret.
19. Place object on paper, to hold in place while tearing transparent sticky tape.
20. Spend 20 minutes carefully trying to remove transparent sticky tape from ferret with pair of nail scissors.
21. Seal paper with sticky tape, making corners as neat as possible.
22. Look for roll of ribbon. Chase ferret down hall in order to retrieve ribbon.
23. Try to wrap present with ribbon in a two-directional turn.
24. Re-roll ribbon and remove paper, which is now torn due to ferret's enthusiastic ribbon chase.
25. Repeat steps 13-20 until you reach last sheet of paper.
26. Decide to skip steps 13-17 in order to save time and reduce risk of losing last sheet of paper. Retrieve old cardboard box that is the right size for sheet of paper.
27. Put present in box, and tie down with string.
28. Remove sting, open box and remove ferret.
29. Put all packing materials in bag with present and head for locked room.
30. Once inside lockable room, lock door and start to relay out paper and materials.
31. Remove ferret from box, unlock door, put ferret outside door, close and relock.
32. Repeat previous step as often as is necessary (until you can hear ferret from outside door)
33. Lay out last sheet of paper. (This will be difficult in the small area of the toilet, but do your best)
34. Discover ferret has already torn paper. Unlock door go out and hunt through various cupboards, looking for sheet of last year's paper. Remember that you haven't got any left because ferret helped with this last year as well.
35. Return to lockable room, lock door, and sit on toilet and try to make torn sheet of paper look presentable.
36. Seal box, wrap with paper and repair by very carefully sealing with sticky tape. Tie up with ribbon and decorate with bows to hide worst areas.
37. Label. Sit back and admire your handiwork, congratulate yourself on completing a difficult job.
38. Unlock door, and go to kitchen to make drink and feed ferret.
39. Spend 15 minutes looking for ferret until coming to obvious conclusion.
40. Unwrap present, untie box and remove ferret.
41. Go to store and buy a gift bag.



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).

Bear & Ginger need a new home. Bear is a dark sable male & Ginger is a chocolate colored female.

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!

Brody & Tucker are two sweet boys that were really well taken

care of. They are new to the shelter, but we predict they won't be around for long!

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

Cocoa (dark sable, f) & **Honey** (choc, f) are adorable 1.5-2 year old girls. They play fine with other ferrets, but would prefer a human all to themselves.

Harvey is a 4.5 year old silver mitt male. He likes other ferrets,

but has also lived as a single ferret for some time now.



Ike is a 4 year old sable male & **Sara** is a 2.5 year old chocolate girl. They had a bit of a tough time adjusting to shelter life, but are now doing great and are ready to go to a new home!

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.

Koto & **Bandit** are two dark sable boys that are around 2 years of age. They are nice boys that would love a new home!

Charlie (sable, m, 4yrs), **Loki** (DEW, m, 4 yrs) & **Chai** (sable, f, 4 yrs) are older ferrets looking for a home where they can remain together. They are all healthy, fat & fluffy at this time.

Luna is an adorable sable fluffball that came to the shelter with a biting problem. We definitely think this can be overcome, as she is just a baby, but she will need a ferret experienced home. She does fine with other ferrets and is rapidly improving behavior-wise at the shelter already!

Maddie (f, sable) & **Newton** (silver, m) are back. They've been checked for parasites, have been vaccinated and are all ready to go to their new home.

Marlin & **Scratchy** are all that remains of a 5-some. They would love to find a home where they could be together. They play well with others, fortunately, and can go as part of a group.

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 are micro-chipped, neutered & have been vaccinated.

Mina (chocolate, f, 3 yrs) & **Neo** (silver, m, 4-5 yrs) were surrendered together. They enjoy the company of other ferrets and are very sweet.

Polly is a young & sweet little girl that likes other ferrets. She is a chocolate colored, non-Marshall female.

Rufus (m, sable mitt) was found as a stray several months ago, was adopted and then returned some months later when his family changed homes and could no longer keep him. He now has a buddy, **Peanut** (m, dark sable) and we would love to find a home where they could remain together.

Toodles is a 3 year old dark sable girl that doesn't care for other ferrets. She loves people though and spends all day playing with the



volunteers and being a lap ferret.

Vinny & **Shelby** are chubby dark-eyed white cuties! Vinny loves to play and Shelby is a total princess ferret. They 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, obtained at the shelter, 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.

Lou Lou and **Juu Juu** just arrived at our shelter. Lou Lou has some medical problems that are being treated in a foster home, but they will be available for fostering soon.

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 Lu-pron for adrenal disease and are doing just great.

Ranger (sable, m) & **Peaches** (albino, f) were surrendered together over a year ago. They are both around 3-4 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.

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:
