

# Washington Ferret Rescue and Shelter



Volume 7 Issue 1

## My ferret is losing hair ...

If your ferret is looking or acting 'off' of his norm, please take him or her to a vet—you're the one that knows him best!

Symptoms of adrenal disease can include some of the following: hair loss (patchy or no hair at the base of the tail, up the back, on top of the head, on top of the feet); swollen vulva in females; swollen prostate in males, which can make it difficult or impossible for him to urinate (the latter is an emergency situation!); excessive itchiness; reversion to mating behaviors and/or thinner than normal skin.

Typically these symptoms will not surface until the ferret is around four years or older, but younger cases have been documented.

An ultrasound can be performed to see if there is a sizable tumor, and will help determine whether or not it is operable, or if it is best to treat with Lupron.

A hormone panel from the University of Tennessee can be obtained to see if the hormones that are the ear mark of adrenal disease are elevated. A blood sample will be taken and then shipped over to the U of Tenn. Several weeks later, you should have your results. This is especially useful in cases where the ferret is not displaying clear signs of adrenal disease and the diagnosis is questionable.

If adrenal disease is confirmed, deciding between surgery and Lupron is the next step. Lupron suppresses the

growth of the tumors and may reverse many of the symptoms common in adrenal disease. In older or ailing animals, this is often the best option. Surgery will remove the affected gland, but may not ultimately "cure" your ferret. A second surgery may be needed should the ferret become symptomatic again, or you could opt for Lupron at that point.

Discuss all your options with your vet and determine what is right for both you and your ferret. It's a good idea to have an established relationship with your current vet, so he/she will have a good understanding of your ferret's history. Don't be afraid to ask lots of questions—it's important that you understand what's going on with your furkid!

### Inside this issue:

<i>Hair Loss—What to Do</i>	1
<i>What's New at WFRS</i>	2
<i>Upcoming Events &amp; Thank You</i>	2
<i>Unwelcome Pests</i>	2
<i>At the Bridge</i>	3
<i>Ferrets Seeking Homes</i>	3



**Summer Snorkel!**



### How to Contact Us!

- *Shelter Voicemail*  
206.442.2025
- *Shelter Email*  
[liane@ferretlovers.com](mailto:liane@ferretlovers.com)
- *Website*  
<http://washingtonferret.org>

## What's New at Washington Ferret Rescue & Shelter?

### General Update:

We love our new place! It is absolutely perfect for our needs. However, with having to pay rent in addition to our ever-increasing vet bill, things are going to get interesting.

We run our not-for-profit shelter exclusively on donations. Adoption fees help recover some of the vet costs (vaccinations, office visits, medication, surgery, etc.), but our vet bill is still quite high—around \$2,000 at present. We also frequently buy Lupron for all of our foster animals with adrenal disease, and that alone costs us \$600 a pop!

If you think you can help, even if it's only a little bit, we sure could use it! It all adds up & will help us stay open!

## Unwelcome Pests ...

It's that time of the year again; bug season. Oh joy! Keeping those creepy crawlers out of your house can be a real trial, but we have some suggestions for you!

Fleas are little brown insects that can be found using a flea comb or by blowing on your ferret's coat and looking down toward the skin. If you notice either the flea itself, or what's called flea dirt (little specks of blood, feces, and skin), then it's definitely time to do something.

It's a good idea to flea-treat all indoor and outdoor pets to avoid dealing with fleas, ticks and other insects. Fleas can still hitch a ride on your clothing and come into your home that way, but you're greatly cutting down the risk of infestation if you're prepared.

Flea bites in large quantities are actually poisonous to ferrets (they can result in anemia). It's up to you to keep your ferret safe & pest free.

Treating the outside of your house by having it sprayed is a wonderful defense. The added advantage to treating in this manner is that there will be less insects over all to deal with throughout the Summer and Fall months. Wouldn't that be nice? Call a local exterminator if you're interested in having that done. Many companies have reasonably priced plans for pest treatment all year long.

If spraying outdoors isn't for you, or if you live in an apartment; Advantage,

### Ferret Show:

There's a ferret show in Spokane on June 7th. Ferrets must be current on rabies & distemper and proof of ADV status must be shown. Contact dsinsley@verizon.net for more info.

### Adoption Days:

Join us at the Mill Creek Pet Pros June 7th from 10am-4pm for an adoption day! We'll also be at the Bothell Pet Pros and at the Lynnwood Petco on June 8th from 10am-4pm. Watch the website for upcoming dates—and for the store addresses!

### Ferret Frolic:

Bring your fuzz-kids to the Ferret Frolic out on the Kirkland Waterfront, June

29th from 12pm-4pm! You can email [steph@exopet.com](mailto:steph@exopet.com) for more info.

### Yard Sale:

Thank you everyone for helping out at the yard sale! It was a success and we raised some much needed money for the kids here at the shelter!

### Continued Thanks:

We'd like to thank Sarah for fostering several kiddos for us & for spoiling them rotten. Sarah comes all the way out from West Seattle to clean cages for us and to check on the fursbabies at the shelter. We cannot thank you enough for all that you do!

Frontline, Revolution or Ivermectin are all wonderful products that are safe to use on dogs, cats and ferrets. Please obtain the correct dosage information from your vet.

An added benefit to Frontline, Revolution & Ivermectin is that they kill ear mites as well! Ear mites are highly transferable to other pets in your home, so do be on the lookout for uncomfortable or frequent scratching at the ears or a thick, dark, waxy buildup in the ear.

It is not necessary to bathe your animals before applying the aforementioned products, in fact that can make them wear off sooner!

Never use a flea collar on your ferret—even if the package says that the collar is safe for puppies and/or kittens, it is still highly toxic to ferrets! Most flea collars are not very effective anyway, and they are not a good selection for flea control.

Watch those shampoos! Make sure they're either approved for ferrets or are safe to use on kittens. If your ferret shows any sign of discomfort or has a reaction from the product, rinse them off quickly, call your vet and then the company immediately.

If you're not willing to use any of the vet-recommended flea products, Avon Skin So Soft has shown a decrease in fleas and other insects when applied.

A healthy animal will attract less fleas than an ill one, so annual visits, proper

vaccinations, etc. are all in order.

If you decide to get serious and flea bomb your living area, make sure to remove all pets and air out your place before bringing any animal back in. Follow all instructions on the back of the package and call the company if you have any concerns.

For every flea you find on your pet, there's a hundred or so (or more!) that you're not seeing out hopping around your house. Fleas lay their eggs around the perimeter of the room so that they will not be trampled. Products that have boric acid (such as Borax or Flea-Go) in them will dry out flea eggs in the period of about a week. Pay special attention to the edges of each room, including closets, under furniture/mattresses/cushions, and really make sure the product has gotten down into the carpet. These sorts of products are not generally safe for your pets to ingest, so keep a close eye on your animals during treatment.

Vacuuming does help somewhat in the battle against fleas, but you will need to make sure to take your vacuum's bag directly outside. Otherwise, when the eggs hatch, the adult fleas will happily re-infest your house in no time by crawling right out the bottom of your vacuum.

We wish you luck in the battle. Armed with the right stuff, you should have no problem keeping fleas and other insects out of your home and off of your pets!

## At the Bridge.

We would like to remember those fuzzies who brought so much joy into our lives and others.  
The time they spent with us was too short.

**Lily**—Lily will be missed by Hazel, Rachel and family. She passed away in her sleep after battling a long illness. She will always be remembered for her feisty attitude and brilliant spirit.

**Bandit**—Bandit was an older ferret that came into the shelter when her owner could no longer keep her. She did well for quite some time, but then became very depressed. She slipped away from us, and is now missed terribly by her foster mom and her buddy. Rest well, little one.

**Cocoa**—Condolences to JP and family over the loss of Cocoa. Cocoa found a forever home with JP's family and her

stay there was much too short.

**Amanda**—Amanda was only with us for a short while. She will be missed by all that came to know her, and by Misty G. especially.

**Pop**—Pop lost her battle to shelter shock. We'd like to thank Sarah (one of our wonderful volunteers) for doing such a great job with her. She was in the best possible hands.

**Cinnamon & Cyrano**—Cathy & Mike will miss both Cinnamon & Cyrano dearly. Both boys were fortunate to spend their days with such caring, wonderful people. They will be happily reunited at the Bridge.

**Purdy**—Purdy passed away in her sleep. She now joins her buddy, Sneakers, that passed before her, and is missed greatly by her cage-mates and by her foster mom, Mary.

**Teddy**—Our hearts go out to Cara & Jeff over the loss of Teddy. He was a completely healthy older gent that passed quietly in his sleep.

*It should be noted that all of our foster parents have been trained to give fluids & medication by injection. We'd like to thank them again for all that they do. They're priceless!*

## Ferrets Seeking Homes.

### Adoptable Ferrets

**Flora & Fauna**—Flora and Fauna are adorable twin sable girls. These 1-2 year old girls were privately bred and are very healthy!

**Gomer, Larry & Nickels**—These three boys were surrendered by their owner. Larry is a handsome silver blaze, Gomer is a privately bred sable boy and Nickels is just huge! They're all active and silly, so if you're looking for a 3-some to add to your group, come and get them!

**Blizzard & Greyhound**—Blizzard is an adorable albino female, and Greyhound is a handsome silver male. They're young & love to play.

**Darma**—Darma's a young black sable girl who loves to snuggle when she's tired. She's very well mannered and would love to find a new home.

**Skittles**—Skittles is a spunky gal that's always rarin' to go. She gets along well with other ferrets and would be the perfect gal to add to your ferret posse.

**Julie**—Julie is a young fuzz, and boy does she love to play! She gets along well with all other ferrets and is definitely ready to go to her new home.

**Chloe**—Chloe may need an experienced owner. She occasionally chomps fingers that come into her cage—hard enough to surprise you, but not hard enough to do

any damage. She's young though & with a little work, we're sure this will pass.

**Skitters**—Skitters is a nut-case. She loves dancing around and playing with other ferrets.

**Snickelfritz**—Who cannot love a ferret with that name? Snick is an adorable two year old sable boy who's looking for a wonderful new home.

**Weezer**—Weezer is a very cute 1 year old silver boy that's full of energy and would love to join your playgroup!

### Foster Ferrets

**Noodles**—Noodles is an older guy, between 6 & 7 years of age. We'd like to quickly get him into foster care so he continues to stay healthy.

**Lexi**—Lexi comes to us from the Tacoma shelter. She's an older gal that doesn't particularly care for other ferrets. She's looking for a quiet, permanent foster home to call her own. She has not been descented, so she may smell a bit different from other ferrets.

**Hera**—Pam, an Animal Control Officer for the Kent Animal shelter, saved Hera from being euthanized. She came to us with two huge tumors—one on the top of her head, and one under her chin. She's had surgery and is recovering wonderfully!

**Joey & Rosco**—Joey & Rosco are two

older gents that would love a new home. Roscoe will need to return every three months for a Lupron shot, but Joey is so far completely healthy!

**Toby**—Toby is a younger gent that was started on Lupron when he came into the shelter. He's done famously and has grown in a beautiful coat. He'll need to continue with the Lupron (which will require a visit to the shelter), but he's otherwise all set to move on to his new home.

**Pip**—Pip is around four years old and is definitely a snuggler. She doesn't particularly like other ferrets at this time, but she may be convinced to change her mind ... who knows!

**Cappuccino**—Cappuccino will need a ferret health savvy foster home. She seems to slip in and out of periods of good health and will need someone to keep a close eye on her. She will also need to return to the shelter every three months for her Lupron shot.

**Mickey & Bear**—Mickey & Bear are two elderly ferrets that were paired together when they came into the shelter. They are now inseparable. Bear is still dealing with some health problems and will need to be hand-fed for some time. Mickey is doing wonderfully and loves to snuggle. Both will be available for foster when Bear's feeling a bit better.

Washington Ferret Rescue and Shelter  
18724 Bothell Way NE  
Bothell, WA 98011

We're on the Web!  
[www.washingtonferret.org](http://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:

1. Hammocks, Security Cubes—homemade or store bought, we can always use hanging sleep sacks of some sort.
2. Wood stove pellets for litter (found at Safeway, local hardware stores, the Grange, etc.)
3. Cages or carriers—clean or dirty, we don't care!
4. Volunteers to wash laundry, scoop boxes, scrub cages and cuddle ferrets.
5. 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!
6. 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: