

Paws-It!

Washington Ferret Shelter & Rescue



Volume 13 Issue 1

Calling All Volunteers!

A huge thank you goes out to all of our wonderful volunteers. We couldn't do it without you!

We have box-scoopers, bottle-washers, sweepers, nail-clippers, ear cleaners, ferret attention-givers, laundry doers, folders & changers, re-organizers, cage stackers, intakers, adopters and question-answerers. If our volunteers aren't at the shelter itself, they're off ferrying ferrets to/from the vet or their former homes, answering emails and phone calls, attending adoption days, the works! And between all that, we still manage to get all the critters out & played with each and every day. All of you make a huge difference in each ferret's life and make our volunteering experience so much fun.

If you're thinking of volun-

teering, come visit our team on any Saturday and see what we're all about. We're open from 10am-4pm, and can always use a few extra hands. It's great experience for you and/or your kids, especially if you're thinking of becoming ferret parents—and it's a fun time to boot!

Have suggestions? Bring those too! We're only going to get bigger & better with your help.

Have talent? We can always use extra exposure. Whether it's handing out brochures/business cards or organizing events, if you have the ambition, we need you. (Am I beginning to sound like a recruiter yet?!)

There's so much to be done on a day to day basis that there's never a shortage of things to do. Even if you want to just come in and love

Written by Megan Reuther

on ferrets, we always appreciate that too!

Worried that you don't have the experience? Don't worry about it! Come visit & get your hands furry and we'll answer your questions along the way.

We're a registered 501c3 Non-profit charity, so volunteering with us is an easy way to get in your community service hours, meet new ferret people or to just hang out and have a good time.

I really can't say enough good things about how volunteering helps the shelter, the ferrets and the volunteers. The more hands on deck, the easier & faster things go and the more that we accomplish.

Come visit for a day, you won't regret it.

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How to Contact Us!

Shelter Voicemail:
206.442.2025

Shelter Email:
washingtonferret@yahoo.com

Website:
<http://washingtonferret.org>



**Save the date! Sunday, June 27th is Exotic Pet & Bird's Ferret Frolic (details on pg 2).
Bring your ferrets out to play! :)**

What's New?

General Update:

Wow, it's June already! The year's half over, and we're definitely looking forward to the warm Summer months.

As usual, the Shelter is over-crowded with many cute ferrets this *Dumping Season*. If you're thinking of adding to your family, there's a wide selection of ferrets to choose from!

Ferret Frolic:

Please join us at Exotic Pet & Bird's An-

nual Ferret Frolic! The Frolic is on Sunday, **June 27th** from 12pm to 4pm at Kirkland's Marina Park Pavilion. We'll be there with some of our wonderful adoptable kids for you to meet!

Map: http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/depart/parks/guide_images/sction_c7.jpg

Sponsor a Ferret:

Any of our foster animals are eligible for sponsorship. Help pay for their food or medical care & at the same time, you'll be

helping us keep our foster program alive!

Happy Tales:

Would you like to share your experience adopting, fostering or sponsoring a ferret? We'd love to hear from you!! If you'd like to participate, please send your story & a picture or two to washingtonferret@yahoo.com & we'll get it posted right away!

Ferret Home Survival Kit ...

Some humans say ferrets are high-maintenance pets. This is only true if you are unprepared to deal with the many challenging situations they create. Through trial and error, I have developed a survival kit that every ferret parent needs to have on-hand to cope and deal with their ferret's kamikaze suicidal tendencies.

I consider my home to be a sanctuary. A place where all who reside therein may feel safe and nurtured. Cat-proofing a home is child's play compared to ferret-proofing, which, in my mind, supercedes all efforts in the name of homeland security! The idea is simple; you pet-proof to protect the pet from harm and to protect any prized artifacts from tampering or destruction (*Oh no! Not my porcelain miniature mice collection!*)...right? Good, let's get started.

The "Kit" List

1. Duct tape
2. Nails (1 1/2" with large heads)
3. Scissors
4. Bungee cords
5. Hammer
6. Screwdriver
7. Box cutter
8. Tie wraps (heavy-duty)
9. Pet screen (the expensive kind)
10. Sheets of plastic (you can use the tops of the large plastic storage containers you buy for litter pans)
11. Carpet samples (finished boarders / variety of colors)
12. Baby gate (the expensive kind)

13. Baby cupboard safety locks
14. More duct tape (you can't have enough)
15. Litter pans X number of corners in house (large plastic storage containers, approximately 5" deep x 18"W x 24"L...save lids for other uses)
16. Poop Scooper
17. Small plastic bags (always double up your plastic grocery bags; going green is great, but you NEED these bags for poop.)
18. Out of date canned goods
19. Ceramic food and water bowls (high-quality, unleaded glaze)
20. Decorative Italian serving tray (for food and water bowls)
21. Ten to 15 yards of Polar Fleece (Pacific Fabrics is a great resource)
22. Large wooden clothes-drying rack (the old-fashioned kind)
23. Your previous office/guestroom
24. Several miles of 4" round plastic tubing
25. Paper pellets for litter boxes
26. Large bag of planting mix
27. Case of wine - your choice

How To

Right away, you need to plug every hole in your house that has a circumference larger than one inch. Look under your kitchen cabinets, in your kitchen cabinets, drains, vents, carpentry mistakes, broken windows... Duct tape will work temporarily... lots of duct tape. Make plans to have the holes perma-

Written by: Susan Montana

nently sealed because the ferrets will eventually get the tape off. They are relentless in their endeavors.

Next, turn over all of your upholstered furniture. Cut pieces of pet screen a little larger than the bottom frame. Turning the edge of the screen inward, nail the screen to the wooden frame. Raw edges of screen invite chewing and pulling...that's why you turn it under. Use one nail per inch and avoid your fingers or nosey ferrets.

Now, make sure that there is no space around your stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer, dryer and so forth for a ferret to weasel into or under. Duct tape may come in handy here. Canned goods can be used to wedge in odd places. Whatever you use, it has to be heavy and/or almost if not totally indestructible and not climbable.

If you have carpet, you will regret it. Oh well. Keep lots of nice carpet samples on hand. Various colors give you opportunity to be creative. Be alert for chunks of foam that appear from nowhere. Follow the trail of foam to the source, which will be a scratched up area that goes down to your carpet padding. Grab your nails, hammer and carpet samples and start hammering. Avoid your fingers or nosey ferrets. Voila! You will also want to grab a tube of Petromalt (hairball remedy) and squeeze large amounts down your fuzzy's gullet. Foam is deadly...worse case scenario, you'll have a stuffed ferret.

I have given up cages and encourage you to do the same. Cages are too difficult to keep clean...especially those corners. Yuck! And, they leave something to be desired in the *Sunset Maga-*

zine category. Store your cages in the garage and bring them out for foster babies and the infirm. Now, move everything out of your office/guest room. Remove the door. Set up your wooden clothes dryer and proceed to make Polar Fleece hammocks – all you need are scissors – and tie them to the frame in an interesting and overlapping fashion. Using tie wraps, you can attach one or two plastic container lids to the top rungs, making a flat surface for a ferret tent. Poke holes in the plastic with your screwdriver to pass the tie wraps through and around the rungs (use bungee cords to attach the tent to the surface).

Place a large plastic container in each corner of the room (and your entire house) and fill with your favorite poop substrate (I prefer paper pellets). Keep pooper scooper and plastic shopping bags in a convenient place. Lace different lengths of plastic tubing around the room (oops, I think this is about toys...another article...sorry). Find a good place for your food and water tray, which I find handy for carting

back and forth to the kitchen to clean and refresh the serving bowls.

Ah! The potting soil. No matter how you try to protect your planters, “they” will come and usually when you least expect it. You rearrange your living room and, oops, move the chair too close to your ancient, giant Elephant Ear. When you return to the room, an excavation to China has taken place. Fortunately, you have potting soil on hand and are saved from running to the garden store at midnight...it’s closed anyway. Maybe most people don’t keep as many houseplants as I do, so it’s no big deal. For me, it’s like fighting off bulldozers in the Amazon.

Did I mention the baby gate? No? Well, you need at least one. The main gate will go between the new ferret room and the rest of the house. Reinforce the ferret side with your plastic container lids. Punch holes in them with a screwdriver for securing with tie wraps. To fit the gate, you may have to use one and a half lids...they cut easily with a box cutter. The plastic lids also come in handy for making climbing

surfaces not so climbable...like rattan bookcases...who will notice anyway.

You’re almost there... Baby cupboard safety locks are essential for all of your cabinets that the ferts can reach. You will have to hunt around for the style that works best for your cabinet door type. You can’t have more than ½” opening when the door is tested. More than that and your little ferts will push and push until that little ferret body oozes through like toothpaste squeezed from a tube!

Get ready to relax...you should be in pretty good ferret-proof shape. You’ve returned home from work and it’s time to take down the gate and let the ferts run and play in the rest of the house. Don’t think that having a room of their own obliges you NOT to do this! They will still look at you from their cozy fleece hammocks with forlorn, moist eyes, begging to be set free from the confines of their suite. Open a bottle of wine, sit back in your comfy couch with your legs up and enjoy the frolicking.

“Ouch! Ouch! Don’t bite!”

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

Hella and her wonderful family are fostering a number of ferrets from our Shelter. She recently had to say good-bye to three of them after hospicing them through various illnesses. Zoop came to us as part of a group of nine elderly ferrets. She nursed him through liver failure, and made his last weeks as comfortable as possible. He was so loved & so fortunate to have made his way to her and he will be missed very much. ‘King’ Spooky was one of Hella’s personal ferrets who developed adrenal disease and an assortment of other ailments. He slipped over the Bridge when nothing could be done to keep him comfortable any longer. Dear, sweet Ethyl came into the Shelter completely naked from adrenal disease. She was started on Lu-ron, and grew back a fabulous coat. Unfortunately, inoperable tumors were also growing, taking up the majority of her abdomen. Hella kept her fed, happy & comfortable for many, many months and only when she was painful did they let her go.

Lorayne said good-bye to her wonderful ‘stripey-head’ boy, Scout, and to a

very skinny Bouncer. Scout came in with a group of five ferrets, and went to Lorayne’s house for some TLC when he stopped thriving at the Shelter. He lived a long and happy life with Lorayne & family, and will be dearly missed. Bouncer came to Lorayne emaciated and pitiful-looking. Lorayne offered him all the soup & love he could take, but sadly he did not pull through.

Karen and family said their good-byes to their sweet Tank recently. He developed an infection and was unable to recover. Karen has been a long-time foster parent for the Shelter and has several of our kiddos. We know they’re absolutely being spoiled rotten, and hugs go out to her & her family for their loss.

Stacie lost her sweet Kodo to what they believe was intestinal cancer, after a year-long battle. He was only 4 1/2 years old and he will be greatly missed by his sister, Stacie & most of all, by Stacie’s daughter Brettney. Kodo was very attached to her and her to him. He even used to take naps with her and his passing has been very hard on her.

The Shelter also lost some dear kids. Papaya passed away due to a painful tumor in her spinal cord, causing her some hind-end paralysis. Thank you Lorayne for hospicing her in her time of need. Roxanne was another emaciated surrender to our Shelter. She had a mass in her abdomen that was so involved that it could not be removed. She did well for quite some time, but we helped her over the Bridge when she began to hurt. Josie also passed away recently. She became very depressed about losing her home, and sadly slipped away. Thanks to Cara & Jeff for watching over her and taking care of her and her very sad sister .



The Joys of Foster Parenting ...

Written by Lorayne Ham

I first met Cinnamon in 1996 when I went into an animal shelter to pick up my monthly supply of ferret food.

The minute I saw him I could not resist—I am a sucker for a hard luck story... Cinnamon had been turned into the shelter with a broken back. The vet wanted to put him down, but the shelter owner would not have it. I immediately said I would take him home and work with him.

My life changed the minute Cinnamon came home. I no longer had two ferrets. I was up to three and one that was special needs. I jumped into the task with both feet and spent a good amount of time running Cinnamon to acupuncture appointments. He responded well, but the cost, at \$50 per session was adding up. He went every week for three months.

My life changed in other ways too. Cinnamon could not evacuate his bladder on his own. I had to help him. At first I would "Weezer" (my word) him two times per day but he kept getting bladder infections, so I upped it to three times per day which meant weezering him every eight hours. The schedule was 7AM, 3PM and 11PM, day in and day out. After a time I became very efficient at the weezering. Cinnamon's potty needs meant that whatever I needed to do away from the house revolved around his schedule. Whenever it was time to weezer him and I was a

little late, he would find me and stare at me until I took care of business.

I never minded. One look at that sweet, silly little face and I was his. Cinnamon became a traveling man and went with me whenever I needed to go—to meetings or on trips. Everyone got to know Cinnamon.



My husband decided that we needed to make our home handicapped accessible so he built ramps everywhere so that Cinnamon could get anywhere he wanted or needed to go. He truly was an amazing little man. One day I went into the closet to find him in the laundry basket with his buddies. The side of the laundry basket was two feet high at an outward slant! This was one place there were no ramps. How he did it is still a mystery to me! He must've climbed up the side of the basket with-

out it turning over somehow. He wanted to be curled up with everyone else and they were in the basket! Another time he climbed up into the tub via a rug draped over the edge. Cinnamon did his little war dance, loved the tubes and chasing after his buddies. He obviously retained his ferretness in spite of his disability.

Cinnamon was incredibly strong and had front paws that were huge!! He would scoot himself all over the house in record time!

In the 7 years that Cinnamon was with me he taught me what true dignity, humility and love are all about. He was a little trooper and brought such joy to my life. He was kind and gentle to all of the many fuzzies that came in to our home for short medical stays and to those who came to stay longer. He was curious and playful up to the end. Cinnamon will always remain in my heart.

This month marks the second anniversary of his passing. Cinnamon went peacefully in his sleep surrounded by his buddies who loved him a whole bunch!

And...just two weeks after Cinnamon's passing, when I thought I would have a little freedom from wheezering...Along came Basy!!!! (Note: Basy also needs daily weezering as he is also unable to express his bladder)

Ferrets Seeking Homes ...

Adoptable Ferrets

Ranger (sable, m) & **Peaches** (albino, f) were just recently surrendered. 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.

Sammy is a cute & feisty albino girl & her sister, **Delilah**, is a beautiful silver female. They get along great with each other, love to play and are a very fun pair. Come see them today!

Cedar is a beautiful cinnamon ferret that was surrendered along with 3 other ferrets. He gets along great with others & would love a new buddy or two!

Pepper is an adorable black sable girl that was surrendered along with 3 other ferrets. She plays well with others and would love a home with other ferrets to play with.

Sirus is a big sable boy that was surrendered along with 3 other ferrets. He gets along well with his buddies and would love a new home with other ferrets.

Scuffles is a cute chocolate girl that was surrendered along with 3 other ferrets. She loves her buddies, but would do just fine in a home with other ferrets.

Surfer is a California dude with a fun personality. He has a tumor on his side that will need to be removed prior to adoption, but he is otherwise great

shape! He loves people and could go either as a single or may even fit right in with your group. Come see him today!

Shadow is an adorable chocolate girl that would love a new home with other ferrets. She recently lost her buddy, and was then surrendered to us, so we'd love to see her get into a home quickly for her sake. She gets along well with others and is your typical happy ferret girl!

Jenna (f, silver/sable) & **Josie** (f, albino) are two older ladies that are looking for a home. They're sweet, gentle girls that are healthy, just older. Come meet these lovely girls today!

Speedy is a feisty sable girl that's about 3 yrs old. She gets along well

with other ferrets and we'd like to see her go to a home with others. She's a sweet girl with lots of personality. Come see her today!

Ren is a sweet silver girl that's around 3.5 yrs old. She loves other ferrets and would do best in a home that has ferret friends for her to pal around with. She is a sweet, silly & happy girl, just waiting for her new home!

Spazz is a silly dark sable girl that would love a new home. She's been at the shelter for quite some time now. She gets along well with others, is healthy & all she needs now is a home! Won't you come meet her?

Rigby is a 2 1/2 year old, sable, female ferret that was purchased from a feed store in Arizona. Rigby is a classic looking ferret with a black mask that makes her look like a little bandit. She weighs under 2 pounds. She just recently had her shots. **Tess** is a 1 1/2 year old, sable, female ferret that was purchased from a Petco in Washington. Tess has a whiter face than Rigby and is a little larger but is still fairly small. Tess is also current on her shots although hers were a few months ago.

Espresso is a 3 year old chocolate boy that was dropped off at animal control. He seems to be a love. He gets along well with others and would make a great addition to any family.

Frappuccino is a 4 yr old male. He will need a teeth cleaning, but is otherwise in great shape. He's a total sweetheart and just needs some good food to get his coat looking better. He was turned in with 7 cats, so we know he's good with furries of a different flavor! Come see this happy boy today!

Jay is an adorable dark sable boy. He gets along well with other ferrets and would happily bounce right into the right home.

Lazarus (m, sable) & **Pandora** (f, dk sable) are two silly, happy young ferrets. Lazarus is a total cuddlebug, and Pandora is an on-the-go busy-body. Come meet them today!

Bernard (m, silver/sable) & **Bianca** (f, chocolate) are good-natured younger ferrets. They love to play and Bianca even gives kisses! Can you give these sweet kids a home?

Blackjack (silver, m) & **Seven** (sable, m) are very neat ferrets. Blackjack is a

light silver boy with the most adorable black nose. Seven is a happy-go-lucky guy that loves to snuggle. They play well with others and would be happy to join most any group. They won't be here long, that's for sure!

Mish & Mash are twin light sable boys. Mish is a sweetheart and is very cuddly. His brother, Mash, can bite very, 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.

Rosco is an adorable dark sable mitt. He's around 1.5 yrs old and is a friendly, happy soul. Come meet him today!

Sparking and **Champagne** are beautiful ferrets. They love to play, but love attention from people more. They would love to go home with a family that would shower the love & attention on them that they so deserve. They let you know that they want to be held by coming up and trying to wrap their paws around your leg, begging to be held and kissed.



Frankie 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** is a feisty little thing. She's a busy-body through and through and would love to go home with her buddy, Frankie.

Pooh was really sad to lose his family. He's had a tough go of it at the shelter, but is coming around more and more each day. He & his buddy were spoiled rotten and would love to go back to a home like that! **Pudge** is a cutie! He & his buddy were spoiled rotten and would love to go to a home where they will be spoiled once again.

Spice is a tiny wisp of a girl. She is a very dark sable girl that is around a

year old. She has a happy, silly personality and enjoys playing with other ferrets.

Rugrat is a cute dark sable girl. She and her brother play well with others and have been at the shelter for a long time. It's time to get a home of their own! Lucifer, despite his name, is a sweetheart! He's a big albino boy that loves his sister and most other ferrets. Come meet this happy pair!

Rocky is just the sweetest cuddle bug that loves her humans to the point of kissing them when asked to. She also gets along great with the family cat & other more mellow, quiet ferrets.

Mali is an adorable chocolate girl. She's full of spunk & silliness.

Apple is a sweet albino boy, that's around 3-4 years old. He was found wandering the streets, but we were unable to reunite him with his owner. He loves other ferrets and is a happy boy in general.

Foster Ferrets

Note: We do not charge an adoption fee for our foster ferrets, though many of them will require a vet visit or two in their golden years. The shelter provides medical care and any medications that the foster ferret will need for a low monthly donation of \$10-20 a month. Even this little amount, once a month, helps keep our foster program running, so that we are able to continue helping elderly/ill ferrets.

Hershey is a feisty little girl that only likes her buddy, Marshmallow. **Marshmallow** is a beautiful DEW boy that will need to come back to the shelter once a month for a Lupron shot.

Joy has adrenal disease and will need to return to the Shelter each month for a Lupron injection.

Sammy has insulinoma (a medical condition where his blood sugar drops too low - basically the opposite of diabetes) and will need to be fed regularly and monitored for symptoms.

Precious is a tiny little girl that needs someone to watch over her and make sure she keeps eating. Her buddy, **Lucky**, is a total cuddlebug with no medical issues at present.

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:
