

Paws-It!

Washington Ferret Rescue & Shelter



Volume 9 Issue 1

Achooooooo!

This is a friendly reminder to get your flu shot this season. Ferrets are highly susceptible to influenza, and you don't want to be sick and having to deal with sick kiddo(s) at the same time. It's not so easy to tell your ferret to drink some tea and get some rest.

If you happen to come down with the flu, you'll want to wash your hands frequently and try not to breathe directly on your pets. This includes cuddling them close to your face and asking for kisses! If possible, have a healthy family member assist you with the ferrets until you're feeling better. Get plenty of rest and follow all mom's home remedies and you'll be feeling better shortly.

Now for your ferret... Should your ferret become

'snarfy', you'll want to consult with your vet right away. The danger with stuffy noses, despite the obvious discomfort, is that your ferret can no longer smell his food. And what he cannot smell, he does not eat. Not eating can potentially spiral into ulcers, which causes him to not want to eat even more... which spells trouble with a capital T! Ferrets have high metabolisms, and need to replenish their energy frequently. If they do not eat, that cannot be done. Please act quickly if your ferret is looking 'off' or seems stuffed up.

You can try using a humidifier with a little bit of Vicks™ added for the benefit of both you and your ferret. Ferret Rx™ (available at most pet stores) is basically Vicks™

under different name. It can be applied just below the nostrils and will help clear up your ferret's nose. Ferrets do *not* like this at all, so just apologize and do it quickly.

Having children wash their hands before handling the ferrets is a great idea as well. They can come home with so many extra germs from school that it's a good way to head off some of the germ transmission before the ferrets are handled. Keeping a bottle of those soapless anti-bacterial hand washes by your ferret cage is an good visual reminder, and is certainly better than nothing.

Take care and stay healthy! It's never any fun to get sick. You can't even take advantage of a sick day to stay home and play with the ferrets.

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Chris & ferret friends Abbott & Jenny



Why me?!

How to Contact Us!

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206.442.2025
- Shelter Email
liane@ferretlovers.com
- Website
<http://washingtonferret.org>

What's New?

General Update:

The shelter is literally packed with great ferrets looking for homes. The summer months are what we refer to as “dumping season”, and we are certainly happy to see adoptions are picking up once again. So.... how about it? Do you have space for “just one more”? Help us find homes for the homeless!

Sticky Paws:

If you participate in Halloween, please make sure to keep all candies out of ferrety paws. Many of the wrappers can be

dangerous if ingested, and chocolate in large quantities is certainly not good for your pets! Also make sure to keep your ferret(s) safely confined—you don't want them slipping out the door as an extra ‘treat’ for someone!

Volunteer Match:

One of our most awesome volunteers (Terri!) suggested that our shelter sign up for Volunteer Match. We've already received quite a bit of interest. So welcome aboard all you new guys! Have fun & try not to fall in love. Yeah right, like that'll

happen!

Adoption Days:

We will be having several adoption days throughout October & November at local Petcos. Watch the website for dates & times! The next one will be Sunday, Oct. 5th from 1-4pm at the Lynnwood Petco.

Our Website:

Our web server is being upgraded—Please be patient with our email lists & forum! We hope to have them back up & running shortly.

A ferret of a different color ...

Those racing stripes may be cute, but certain colors are often indicative of deafness in ferrets.

The Waardenburg gene is responsible for a variety of affects: wide-set eyes, white stripes or streaks, all over white coloring (not ‘albino’ which is actually the absence of color) and/or deafness. Blazes (thin or wide stripe on the head), Pandas (all white head), DEWs (dark-eyed whites), or REWs (ruby-eyed whites) frequently tend to be deaf.

The easiest way to test for deafness is to hold a squeaky toy behind your back and see if your ferret responds to the noise. Don't hold the toy in front of him or where he can see it, as he may feel the air movement or see your hand move. The vacuum is another key test—deaf ferrets typically bumble along and get in the way; whereas hearing ferrets either run away in fear or will try to attack the vacuum for being in their space (which is

quite an amusing sight!).

A deaf ferret should not be considered ‘defective’—after all, he doesn't know he's deaf! In fact, you probably won't even notice many differences. When he's young, he may pester your other ferrets because he is unable to hear them telling him to leave them alone. So for the first few months, you get to help exercise the little guy. Yeah, I know, playing with the baby ferret... Tough, huh?

Deaf babies need to be taught not to bite down, just like hearing babies do. If he begins to nibble on you, gently press your finger down toward his chest and he won't be able to do anything other than let go. You can also try scruffing (pinch the loose skin at the back of his neck) the baby and signing “NO”. You'll need to figure out a sign that works for you & be consistent in its use. Typically shaking a finger at the ferret works well. It's actually a good idea to talk out-loud as you

sign, so the ferret can pick up on your body language and will better understand its meaning.

Probably the toughest thing about owning a deaf ferret is trying to find them when they're zonked out. You can train some ferrets to come when you flick on the lights (give a treat every time you turn the light on & your ferret will soon be running to you). However, ferrets often sleep so soundly that they will be blissfully unaware of anything going on in their environment. You could try training them to come when you stomp on the floor. Deaf animals can feel the vibrations and will usually wake right up & come running (this is one of the reasons that they are often so interested in the vacuum). Lastly, having them wear a bell collar will alert you as to their location—but once you learn where they like to hang out, you can usually find them in a hurry.

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

Clyde—Clyde came to us in an emergency. He had swallowed something he could not pass. He underwent a successful surgery, was patched up and sent home. Unfortunately, he had to be rushed back into surgery several days later, and he did not wake up. Poor boy.

Rodney—Rodney was an older boy that went immediately into foster care upon his arrival to the shelter. His health continued to decline despite his foster mom's best efforts. He slipped away in his sleep one evening & is very much missed.

Murphy—Murphy came to us with a whole host of health problems. He was

hospiced with us but unfortunately, he passed in his sleep, surrounded by his friends.

Frank—Frank came to us because he had not been eating. He appeared to have signs of neurological damage and something was never quite ‘right’ with him. His foster mom, Cara, loved him anyway, and battled the ups and downs with him as long as he held on.

Cappuccino—Cappuccino leaves a ferret sized hole in her foster parents', Cara & Jeff's, hearts. They took such exceptional care of her throughout all of her health troubles.

Sasha—Sasha was one lucky ferret. She came to our shelter early on and has been a part of our adrenal study ever since. What we have learned from her will help many, many ferrets down the road. She lived a long & wonderful life and we'd like to extended our thanks to her foster mom, Kathy for loving her while she was in her care.

Otter—Otter had been doing so well for so long. For some reason he sank into a deep depression and we were unable to talk him out of it. We fought it with medication and kept him fed & hydrated, but unfortunately, he passed away instead.

Ferrets Seeking Homes.

Adoptable Ferrets

Rowdy—Rowdy is a 2 year old chocolate boy that gives kisses and enjoys snuggling up & watching TV with you!

Bhindi & Spazz—Bhindi & Spazz are both two years old. Spazz is a sable mitt and Bhindi is a silver mitt girl. They were with us once before, so we'd love to see them finally get a *forever* home.

Ariel, Flounder & Sebastian—This trio of chocolates recently came into the shelter. Flounder is a 4 year old girl, Ariel (f) & Sebastian (m) are both 2 years old. Both girls are reportedly quite kissy!

Snow & Winter—Snow is an adorable sable boy, and Winter is a very uniquely marked dark-eyed white. He has a splotch of color on the top of his head. Come see them today!

Chance—Chance is a cutie for sure. He's a butterscotch blaze boy, around 1-2 years old. He's a ham and a half & loves to play!

Zoe & El Bandito—Both Zoe (f, albino) & El Bandito (m, chocolate) are 1-2 years old. They're great with other ferrets and would fit well into any play group..

Felony & Misdemeanor—"The Crooks" get along wonderfully with others & would love a new home together. Their foster mom says they are two of the funniest, most playful ferrets that she has helped yet.

Fidget & Gizmo—Fidget is an absolutely priceless little silver girl & Gizmo is a cute sable. They are very fun girls that love to jump & play.

Max—Max is a feisty 8 month old light sable boy. He loves to play with other ferrets and would do great in any home!

Phoebe & Sage—Phoebe is a dark sable girl that's around 4 years old. Sage is a chocolate girl that's 2. Both are in good health and would love a new human to love.

Bandit, Belle & Daisy—Bandit is a 3 year old light sable male, Daisy is a 2 year old silver female & Belle is a 1 year old dark sable female. Threesomes are typically hard to place... Do you have room in your home for just three more?

Binks—Binks is an adorable sable girl that is 1.5 years old. She's in great shape, loves other ferrets and is definitely ready to get out of the shelter.

Max & Jag—Max (light sable) & Jag (dark sable) are 1.5 year old boys. They're adorable and would make a fun addition to any play group.

Keith & Felix—These two boys are chalk full of energy! They're three years old, but still play like kits. Come see them today!

Enzo—Enzo is a light sable male, 2.5 years in age. He gets along well with other ferrets and loves to play, play, play!

Bandit—Bandit is a 3 year old chocolate girl that doesn't particularly like other ferrets. She would love a new home where she can be an only child.

Snoopy & Dharma—This pair of 2 year old sable girls would love a new home where they can play their little hearts out!

Delia—Delia is a nut-case. She is probably around 4 years old, but plays like a kit. She has the wildest dance of any ferret I've ever seen. She adores other ferrets and would do well with a friend that is as silly as she is.

Foster Ferrets

Note: We do not charge an adoption fee for our foster ferrets, though many of them will require frequent vet visits and/or additional care. The shelter provides medical care and any medications that the foster ferret will need. However, we ask that you either live close to the shelter or be willing to travel.

Manic & Panic—Manic & Panic are both older ladies. Manic is a cute chocolate sable girl, and Panic is mostly bald. She may be a silvermitt, but we're waiting for the Lupron to kick in before we'll know for sure. They're pretty spunky for older kids, and love to play.

Fera & Febe—Fera & Febe are two adorable little girls. They are very attached, so we do not want to separate them. Fera loves to run around the yard and is around 4 years old. Febe is 3 and is much more skittish than her sister.

Flora & Fauna—Flora and Fauna are cute twin sable girls. They were privately bred, but are very nervous about being in the shelter. One of them does bite pretty hard, so no children for these gals just yet! Anyone up for the challenge of working with biters?

Farah—Farah is a cute 5-6 year old sable blaze girl that's just a gem. She's pretty sensitive and would prefer the company of humans over scary ferrets. Would you be interested in a sweet old single lady?

Puffin—Puffin is a petite 2-3 year old albino. She would do great in a home with other ferrets to play with.

Bo & Link—These two dark sable boys would love a new home. They're both older & appear to be in good shape. They love to play & get along well with the three boys below.

Freckles, Spunky & Skippy—Freckles came in almost completely naked from adrenal disease. He has been started on Lupron & is slowly growing a new fur coat. Spunky has an inoperable tumor on his belly and will need hospice care in the future. Skippy appears to be completely healthy and is the rambunctious one of the three. These three get along wonderfully with Bo & Link above, and are all very nice ferrets.

Mickey—Mickey is a 4-5 year old boy that loves to play with everyone. He would do best in a home with a few other ferret buddies.

Bear—Bear is around 7-8 years old. He doesn't do much these days other than sleep. He enjoys the company of other ferrets, but they do need to be pretty mellow or they will scare him. He's been spotted sleeping with Spunky and Mickey above, and would do just fine with either of them.

Kooka Bear—Kooka Bear is a 5-6 year old male that's a beautiful dark silver. He needs to put on some weight and be in a home where he'll get tons of love.

Joey & Rosco—Joey & Rosco are two older gents that would love a new home. Roscoe will need to return to the shelter every month for a Lupron shot, but Joey has been completely healthy so far!

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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