

# Ferret Info

by Admin

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### **Ferret Info**

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## **Pet Info Products**

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## **Behavior Challenges and Training Tips**

Just as with any other pet, ferrets can be a challenge at times. Your ferret children will need your guidance and proper training in order to resolve behavior challenges. With these training tips and some good old-fashioned gumption, you will have your ferret behaving like the charming little darling that you know it can.

### Biting

Ferrets will bite in just the same way that kittens will and dogs do. They are no different, regardless of stories you have heard about ferrets biting more than a typical pet.

These critters are used to playing with each other and playing hard. They do not realize that they hurt you when they do this. However, they can be trained differently just like any other pet.

\* The scruff method – mamma ferrets will always grab their babies by the scruff of their neck in an attempt to curb unwanted behavior. This technique is useful for you as well. Just grab your ferret by the pull of skin on the back of its neck when it bites so that it will learn not to do this.

\* Give your ferret an alternative to biting – offer a toy of some sort to capture the ferret’s attention so that the unwanted behavior of biting is shifted to one of playing.

\* Place your ferret in its cage for a few minutes after telling it firmly “no.” This should be repeated and consistent until the new learned behavior is in place.

## Knocking Things Over

Your little darling has a lovely habit of wanting to knock anything and everything over. You can avoid this behavior by placing the food bowl higher above and mounted on the cage. A water bottle attached to the cage is also a wise choice since ferrets love to knock bowls of water over.

If your ferret is moving his furniture around too frequently, try to take it out for more playtimes. More often than not, your ferret is bored out of its mind and needs a creative outlet.

## Potty Training

If your ferret is missing the litter box and going outside of it, chances are you will need to help it along by separating its eating and drinking space from its potty space. By keeping its eating and drinking space separate, you will give the clear indication that there is a space for eating and drinking and a place for potty. Cover the floor of the cage with bedding and your ferret will most likely realize that this is a place to sleep, not a toilet.

By sectioning off the different areas, you will help your ferret to realize that the potty is the place it needs to go for its bathroom use.

## Caring for Your Ferret

Once you have made the decision to be the pet owner of a ferret, you need to educate yourself about its care and needs. Just as you would gather information about how to feed, bathe, and care for a puppy or kitten, you need to be well informed about your pet ferret.

## Feeding Routine

Ferrets tend to have a very high metabolism and, as such, need to be fed frequently. It is a good idea to have a bowl of dry cat food available at all times for your pet ferret. Fresh water is just as important to a ferret as it would be to a guinea pig.

Typically, a ferret will feed on dry cat food; however, some pet food stores have begun the practice of selling ferret food. Do not feed your ferret milk or dairy, as this will cause stomach upset. In addition, chocolate, grapes, peanuts, and carrots are not good for your ferret. These items can be a health hazards to your ferret.

As with any other pet, consult with a professional as to what to feed your new pet. Feeding any pet involves information and responsibility.

## Cages

Most pet stores will sell a ferret cage to house your new pet ferret. These cages typically are sold in appropriate sizes for your ferret. A hanging water bottle and hanging food dispenser are available to buy separately.

You can also purchase a small piece of carpeting for your ferret to place on the bottom of the cage. A small litter box may also be placed inside the cage.

Wood and cedar shavings can be very dangerous to your ferret so do not use these materials.

## Vaccines

Again, as with any other pet, it is imperative to speak to a professional regarding the necessary vaccinations. As many other family pets receive distemper vaccines, a ferret should also receive this important vaccine.

Typically, the first shot is given at about two months of age, thereafter following up every couple of weeks.

A yearly booster is almost always necessary but again, speak with your veterinarian about the proper vaccines for a family ferret.

## Potty Training

Typically, a ferret can be litter trained. In the beginning, you can section off a small litter box or some newspaper and keep the ferret there upon awakening for it to do its business. When a ferret is trained to go in that particular corner or in the litter box, you can then remove the sectioned-off area and leave an open space set up for the ferret.

Ferrets, once trained, will usually be consistent in their potty training habits.

With some basic information to start and the help of a professional, you can be the successful owner of a ferret.

## **Ferret Health: When to See the Veterinarian and First Aid Tips**

Just as you would discuss your new kitten or newly adopted puppy with the veterinarian, you would discuss the health and welfare of your new ferret kit. It is very important to have an open discussion with questions at the ready for your veterinarian regarding your new ferret.

There are issues such as injury and vaccinations that you will have to be well informed about before bringing your new pet home.

It is important to note what to expect with your new pet. The typical life span of a ferret is usually from six to ten years of age. Keep in mind that children will get boyfriends, girlfriends, jobs, and perhaps even go away to college. Be prepared for at least a decade of your life devoted to taking care of another new pet.

Playtime is just as important to a ferret as any other pet. Make certain to give your ferret enough playtime every single day. Let them out of their cage and let them run around. Give them toys to play with and toys to chase, as well. Interacting with them in their playtime is a great way for them to get their much-needed exercise, as well.

Sometimes you will notice hair loss in your ferret. Some hair loss is typical; however, if this continues at a quickly moving pace, make sure to consult your veterinarian as it could be an underlying problem. A switch in their food or even a new cleaning product you have introduced can cause this issue. It could also be a serious underlying issue that when addressed immediately can be remedied.

Fleas and ticks are common in ferrets just as they are in dogs and cats. Most specialty pet stores have flea and tick products in the form of shampoos and powders that will do the trick.

For vitamin supplements, look for a good product such as FerreTone that will give your ferret additional vitamins and minerals that it needs. This will provide healthy skin and shiny fur because it contains vitamins A, D3, and E. FerreVite gel is also a great way to upkeep your ferret's appetite. There is also a high calorie gel that will supplement your ferret's diet if necessary. Of course, always check with your veterinarian before giving anything to any pet.



Ferret treats come in many varieties in the form of snacks that are used for rewards for good behavior and treats.

Hydroxyzine is used to treat bites from fleas or mites on ferrets and even allergies. Healing pads to stop bleeding are great to have around for any pet as well. There is even a specialty ferret first aid kit available, containing hydrocortisone cream, first aid cream, and gauze pads is available for your ferrets first aid needs.

Vaccinations are important to your ferret just as they are for your cat or dog. Distemper and rabies are the two you should discuss with your veterinarian.

With a little common sense and armed with some information, you can have a happy and healthy ferret.

## **Ferret Proofing Your Home**

One of the most important things to keep in mind while you are ferret proofing your home is that you are not only keeping your home safe, but you are also keeping your ferret safe.

Ferret kits are very curious and extremely energetic. They love to dig, hide, and scamper. A ferret loves to hide in small spaces. Plastic bags can be a hazard to ferrets, as they simply adore the crinkly sound of the plastic when it moves.

These critters like to hide in tough spots where you may not find them easily. Many a ferret has burrowed a home inside the bottom of a laundry basket, which, of course, makes it dangerous for them.

Whenever you let your ferret out, it is important to supervise it at all times. The best idea for making your home as ferret proof as possible is to dedicate one

particular room or space to ferret play. By doing so, you know where your ferret is and exactly what kind of space it will inhabit. Dedicating one room allows the ferret to have free play in an area that is familiar and you will have the added bonus of knowing all the ins and outs and hideaways in that room.

Sectioning off a small space will allow just enough room for a young ferret to play without getting into too much danger. Younger ferrets will always want to bite and nip at objects such as pillows or couch bottoms - very much the same way that puppies and kittens will. Having plenty of toys available is one way to keep them off your furniture. Toys do not have to be expensive either. Household objects such as a plastic tumbler is enough to keep a ferret occupied for quite some time.

Laying down a blanket or oversized towel in the early stages where your ferret will be playing may help to keep carpeting and rugs clean. Once you know your ferret's routine, you will easily be able to assess when they have to use the potty, when they need a nap, and when they need their playtime. Typically, a ferret will learn to come out and play and keep potty habits inside its cage as it is supposed to.

Think of your ferret as a small child. The same way you would put all buckets filled with water and any and all kinds of cleaning supplies and medications out of reach, you must do the same for your ferret.

The best way to ensure ferret safety is to dedicate that one room to their playtime. This way you will not have to wonder if you have left the toilet seat up or any small spaces that they may crawl into and get stuck. Unfortunately, the most dangerous spot in the house is the laundry room. If you do set aside one room, make sure the closets are shut tight and have no space between the floor and the door for ferrets to crawl under. Make sure that there are no pieces of furniture the ferret can get stuck underneath.

If a ferret was to get out of a room and into the outdoors, its chance of survival outdoors is slim.

These critters are very curious and it is our job as pet owners to keep them safe at all times.

## **Housing Your Ferret**

### **Indoor Housing**

Ferrets really are quite funny to watch. They have unique and quirky little characteristics that you will grow to know and love. There are many important aspects in caring for your pet ferret; however, knowing how to properly house your pet ferret is just as important as what you may feed it.

Typically, ferrets will need to feel safe and secure in their housing environment. What they love most is to snuggle into their environment as they are generally burrowing animals.

Ferrets absolutely adore sleeping tubes. Sleeping tubes resemble one of those enclosed slides you find in a children's playground. These critters also love crawling in to one of these tubes all at the same time. They love close, snug, dark quarters so these tubes are perfect for them.

You may also opt to purchase a ferret hammock. These hammocks are exactly the same in concept as the ones human beings use. Small plastic containers may also be appropriate for ferrets to sleep inside their cage.

### **Outdoor Housing**

In order for ferrets to live comfortably outside, their environment must be supervised. Ferrets can stay outdoors in colder temperatures but must be well fed at all times and their water supply needs to be monitored as well. Fresh

water every day all day is important for a ferret to thrive.

It is safest for a ferret to be in a raised cage such as a hutch. It is preferable for a ferret to live indoors as their food will stay fresh and they are protected from other animals and the elements. If your ferret escapes, then there is a good chance that it will not survive. Without being fed, a ferret has next to no chance of survival as they are dependent on human beings.

Ferrets that are kept out in warmer weather need constant attention. They need to be in a shady place with plenty of water and constant checking on.

If you are thinking about keeping your ferret in the garage, please be aware that if your vehicle is also stored there, this can be fatal, as fumes from your car can kill your pet. A garage really is no place to keep your ferret. These critters love interaction and to come out and play. Also, there is more likely a chance of forgetting to offer food, water, or even play time when a pet is out of sight. It will more than likely be out of mind as well.

So, whether you are considering housing your pet in a cage, indoors, or outdoors, make sure that you are well informed as to what is best for your ferret. Speaking to a professional is always recommended.

## **Introducing Your Ferret to the Family**

There are many things to take into consideration when bringing a brand new ferret kit into your home. Many variables exist. For example, will you be introducing your new kit to an older ferret? Is this the first ferret kit that you bring into your home and introduce to your children?

A little bit of knowledge before you come home with your new kit will be worth its weight in gold.

If you are introducing a new ferret kit to cohabitate with an older ferret kit, you should know a few things. A new ferret kit will have much more energy than an older ferret. In fact, an older ferret is set in its ways and already trained. Now that you are throwing a vibrant, energetic new kit into the mix, you have introduced change into the older ferret's environment. Any change for any animal needs an adjustment period.

It is always a wise idea to have a separate cage for a new ferret. Set up a room just for the specific purpose of introducing your older ferret to your newer one, after a little bit of time having the cages next to each other. This will give the older ferret a chance to sniff out the scent of the newer ferret, and give them both a chance to become accustomed to the presence and scent of one another.

Let your older ferret approach your newer ferret slowly and cautiously and for limited times only. Your new kit will be so energetic and excited; it may just overwhelm your older ferret.

As time goes by, the older ferret will get used to spending longer periods with his new friend. When the new kit grows up a bit and is a little less enthusiastic, the match for cohabitation will be better.

For some reason, introducing a new girl ferret to an older girl ferret seems to cause a bit of competition amongst them.

If you have a family pet such as a dog, it is best to introduce your dog as a puppy to your ferret kit. When animals grow up together, they usually grow used to each other much more easily and quickly. However, if this is not the case, then it is imperative that you supervise an older dog, especially if he is bigger, to your new kit.

A great idea is to speak to your veterinarian about your dog's breed and the typical personality traits that it has. Some dogs are naturally bred for hunting and chasing and it may never be a good idea to introduce them. Keeping all

food and toys separate and out of the room when they play is a wise choice as well. Always supervise your pets with your new ferrets.

When it comes to introducing your ferret to your children, take into account the age of your children. Ferrets are no more or less likely to bite or nip than a new puppy. Make sure that you always supervise your children with your new ferret just as you would with any other pet. Never leave the room and start off slowly so that your new pet will get accustomed to your children.

With patience and common sense, your new ferret will become part of the family in no time.

## **Is a Ferret Right for You?**

Many individuals wrongly think that a ferret is part of the rodent family. As a matter of fact, ferrets belong to the adorable mink, otter, and badger family. A ferret is a perfect pet if you know all that you need to know ahead of time. Just like any other pet, there are things specific to ferrets which you need to be aware of.

### Temperament

Ferrets are good tempered and need the help of humans in order to thrive and survive. Ferrets are not aggressive if they are taught properly. Just as with a puppy, ferrets bite and nip when they are young. If a small child pulls on a puppy's tail, chances are that the puppy will nip. It is the same with a ferret.

Ferrets are playful by nature. They need to interact with their humans. They are also not too noisy. Ferrets usually do not chew or tear up furniture and shed very little.

## Necessary Space

While it is important to have playtime with your ferret, it is also very important not to leave your ferret unattended. If you do leave your ferret unattended, the results can be unfortunate.

Ferrets love tiny spaces and are curious by nature. They can get themselves in all kinds of trouble if not supervised. These little animals love to hide in small spaces and take naps there as well. Your ferret may be harmed if you do not stay with it while it plays openly.

These adorable critters also do not mind when they have to remove to their home base, or cage, when playtime is over.

## Feeding

Ferrets can have dry cat food or some of the newly specialized ferret foods out on the market.

For water purposes, a water bottle attached upside down in the cage may be best, as ferrets like to move about and may knock over their bowl of water. Little snacks such as vegetables, dried banana chips, or raisins might interest a ferret, but be sure to stay away from chocolate, grapes, peanuts, and carrots. Speak to a professional before you feed your ferret, as this is vital to their wellbeing.

## Bathing

Bathe your ferret as you would your cat or dog, using specialized flea shampoos and powders. Most pet stores have specialized shampoos and powders specifically made for bathing ferrets.

If you follow some simple and common-sense procedures, you will see that your ferret will thrive.

## **Keeping Your Ferret Entertained**

A ferret needs some fun playtime just as any other pet does. Keeping a ferret in its cage for prolonged periods of time is bad for their health and their general wellbeing. If you want to keep your furry friend alive for a longer period of time, then it is essential to incorporate exercise into their routines every day.

Ferrets love to hide, dig, and play. When you give your ferret a bath, you will notice that he or she will go absolutely bonkers, running about and bouncing off furniture in an effort to dry off. They are just so happy to be clean and dry.

Toys are very important to ferrets. Toys do not have to be expensive, but variety is important. Some simple items such as a plastic tumbler or a cardboard box are enough to delight a ferret for hours. Playing tug of war and hide and seek with your ferret is another great way to interact, spread the love, and give them much-needed exercise in their daily routine.

Ferrets love when you play together with them. Do not just let them run around and get into trouble - interact with them. They just love to play together with you. Ferrets also adore climbing in and out of tunnels. There are tunnels that are made specifically for this reason. It is one of a ferret's favorite things to do.

Believe it or not, some ferret owners even purchase a harness to bring their pet ferret out on a leash on occasion. Make sure to speak to your veterinarian about your pet ferret's shots before going outdoors. Always make sure that your ferret is securely in its harness. An escaped ferret is one that is in much danger. A ferret is not like most other animals that can learn how to survive in the outdoors. It will not know how to get its own food, as it is dependent on you for that.



If you do decide to venture outside, also be aware that fleas, ticks, and insect stings cause an issue for ferrets just as they do for your canine and feline pets.

As far as playtime is concerned, it is important for a ferret to get out and about every day for exercise. Not only is exercise good for them, but also interacting with you and the rest of the family is imperative. Having some fun time with other pets, supervised in the beginning, is also a good idea for your pet ferret.

When you are not having playtime, the best place for your pet ferret is in its cage - safe, sound, and tucked away to rest up for more playtime tomorrow.

## **Travel Considerations**

When traveling with your pet ferret, there are many things to keep in mind. One of the most important is to check with your veterinarian to see what needs or issues may arise during travel time. Once you have had your initial discussion with your veterinarian, you may want to bring any and all things along on your trip to ward off any ferret needs.

Items such as your regular supply of vitamins are a wise choice. You may be thinking that you will only be gone for a little while, but sometimes Mother Nature can wreak havoc with your travel plans. Delays are not uncommon at all in the world of travel and you always want to have more preparation than necessary when it comes to your children and your pets.

You may wish to bring along a bit of first aid cream and some bandages just in case your little pet incurs an injury during travel time. Also, have your ferret's flea shampoo packed and ready to use along with the flea powder - just in case of an outbreak from an area you are unfamiliar with. Also, having something in that first aid kit that will address bee stings is essential as many, if not most, ferrets are allergic to bee and insect stings.

Before you travel, it is imperative to find out where the closest veterinarian is located near where you are staying, who will tend to your ferret should it become sick or injured. It is very important to make that call. While some animal hospitals will seem like a safe bet, call them up and tell them that you are traveling with your pet ferret and ask them if they are equipped to handle such a pet.

You must have enough litter and food as well as water for your ferret. The same way that it is imperative to exercise your ferret for a few hours each day, it is important to exercise them on travel time. If you are traveling by way of road trip, bring along a harness and let your ferret get some much-needed exercise. If you are traveling by air, make sure you call the airline ahead of time and ask what paperwork they will need in order for your pet to travel along. Proof of rabies is the most vital document you will need.

Bring along plenty of toys as well. After travel time, your pet ferret will wish that he or she could ask, “Are we there yet?” Upon arrival, make sure that you give your pet enough time for play before retiring for the night. Keeping the ferret’s routine as close to normal as possible should provide for a smooth transition.

As with any travel, it is imperative to ask the hotel, airline, or rail what their rules, regulations, and restrictions are before you travel. Get it in writing, if you can. This will alleviate any travel headaches. Knowing before you go is key to a successful trip.

## **Understanding Ferret Behavior and Body Language**

Ferrets are very similar in nature to kittens and cats. They are playful little critters looking for some activity and playtime with you. Many individuals

think that ferrets are wild animals, but this is not the case. These playful creatures are domesticated and love to run around and play.

Ferrets do not bite any more or any less than any other typical animal that is well trained and well taken care of either. If you neglect your ferret and do not interact with it, then you will receive the same results as if you did this with your puppy. A puppy that does not interact with children or family will be more likely to be aggressive and nip. The same goes with a ferret.

Ferrets will typically seek out the enjoyment of other family members and sometimes even pets as well. While this might be something you will consider, do so with caution. Never let a ferret play with a family pet without discussing it with your veterinarian. Many pet owners have success with sharing your dog or cat with their new pet ferret. However, it is strongly recommended that your ferret does not play with your pet bird.

Since these creatures are fairly even tempered, they are a good fit for any family. Ferrets are usually fearless and easy-going in temperament. There are no territory issues or anxiety for the most part.

Once you have given your pet ferret a bath, wait and watch for the fun to begin. These adorable pets will run, bounce, and jump all over the place. They will do whatever it takes to dry themselves off. Do not worry, however; they will calm themselves down eventually and be ready for a nice long nap.

Unlike a dog, ferrets are quiet. For the most part, they will only squeak and chatter. On some occasions, they will also hiss at you if they want you to back off a little bit. Sometimes, a ferret will let out loud screams when it is overly frightened or injured. Unlike other pets, however, ferrets seem to have an innate ability to calm themselves down.

For some reason, an enjoyable activity for a ferret is to knock things down consistently. They love to topple cups, dishes, bottles; anything they can get their furry little paws on will do just fine. They are also curious in nature,

which often times gets them in trouble. Ferrets are also known for being swipers. They love to swipe anything and everything that they can get their paws on and sometimes get into trouble because of this.

A ferret can be trained in a litter box and some have said that they have even gone on to train a ferret in other manners.

While ferrets do love to run around and interact with family members and even other family pets, it is also important to make sure that your ferret plays under direct supervision. Never leave a family ferret alone to play.

Knowing your ferret's personality traits will help you to keep it happy and healthy and an enjoyable part of the family.

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