



ADOPTION RESOURCES

FOR YOUR NEW FERRET

- [The Basics](#)
- [Connect with Us](#)
- [Tips for a Healthy Ferret](#)
- [Typical Ferret Behavior](#)

Congratulations on Your Ferret Adoption!



THE BASICS

Food: Ferret food is available at most pet supply stores. Make sure that it has 30%-38% protein, 15%-22% fat, and no more than 3% fiber because ferrets have difficulty digesting fiber. The first ingredient should be meat. If you keep your ferret on a high-protein, high-fat diet, they will have less waste, more energy, softer fur, and be healthier in general. When being fed a commercial diet, ferrets should have access to food at all times. Use a heavy crockery bowl that can't be tipped over and is easy to clean.

For treats, you can use some of your ferret's regular diet, but don't give your ferret any "people food." This includes fruits, veggies, and sugary treats, as they can be harmful to your ferret's digestive system.

Water: Keep fresh water available in a suspended "licker" water bottle or bowl at all times. Your ferret should always have access to fresh water.

Housing: Your ferret should live indoors with you due to the dangers of being outside (predators, poison, and cars). When you're unable to supervise your ferret's activities, they should be confined in a cage. Wire cages made specifically for ferrets have one-inch by two-inch mesh on the top and sides. Your ferret's cage should be at least two feet wide by three feet long by two feet high for one ferret. It should have two to three levels so your ferret can have a sleeping area away from the litter box and food area.

Provide your ferret with a hammock to sleep in, blankets to burrow in, and a cardboard box or plastic house for privacy. Ferrets are very susceptible to heat stroke, so make sure your ferret's cage is in a well-ventilated area of your home, and not directly in the sun's rays. Ferrets need at least two to three hours of exercise outside their cages each day.

CONNECT WITH US!



You can find us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn @mohawkhumane.



KEEPING YOUR FERRET HEALTHY

Most ferrets live six to ten years. Ferrets are full-grown at four months. Ferrets can only see reasonably well, but they have excellent senses of hearing and smell.

Until age four, your ferret should visit the veterinarian annually for a general examination and vaccinations against distemper and rabies. After age four, you should see your

veterinarian every six months. The examination should include a check for internal parasites. Ferrets frequently have ear mites, which can be treated topically.

Ferrets' nails grow quickly and need to be trimmed as often as every week. Either small cat clippers or human clippers work fine. When clipping, be careful not to cut the red line in the nail (the blood vessel).

Ferrets, like cats, groom themselves and don't need to be bathed regularly. They have a distinct scent, which comes from oil glands throughout their skin. This scent is normal and is not a result of being dirty. If you keep your ferret's bedding and litter box clean, you don't have to bathe them very often this will help keep the scent to a minimum. After a bath, your ferret's skin glands go into "overdrive" to replenish the oils you just washed away, so your ferret may smell worse for a few days after they've been bathed.

Typical Ferret Behavior



Ferrets are naturally curious animals and will tunnel under rugs, pillows, and other things. They can squeeze through small spaces, so check for holes and window screen openings.

You may want to have your ferret wear a harness with a bell on it so you can easily track their whereabouts.

Ferrets usually sleep 15-20 hours a day and tend to be very sound sleepers. If you find your ferret napping, don't be surprised if they don't respond quickly to your touch or to any sounds you make. They usually are on a two-hour rotation of sleeping and consciousness.

Ferrets are "nippers" by nature. They will nip for fun, attention, or simply to say, "Here I am." They enjoy rough-and-tumble play with each other, which includes nipping. You may need to teach your ferret that they cannot be as rough with you. First, we would recommend not allowing your ferret to play with your hands, but instead, only use toys during play.

Ferrets love to chew, so you'll want to provide them with toys made of hard plastic, hard rubber (like "Kongs"), food items that are chewy (i.e. treat sticks, dried non-flavored meat jerky for animals). Plastic balls with bells, plastic golf balls, and cardboard tubing are also good toys for your ferret. Ferrets get bored easily and like variety, so it's best to alternate their toys so they always have something "new" to play with.

You can train your ferret to use a litter box. Ferrets generally go to the bathroom within a few minutes of waking up or after eating. When you first wake your ferret up, keep them in their cage until they have gone to the bathroom, then immediately give them a treat and allow them out of the cage. When out of the cage, your ferret will likely seek out a corner to go to the bathroom, so having litter boxes in multiple corners is also helpful. If you catch your ferret going to the bathroom somewhere they shouldn't, immediately place your ferret in the cage following the same procedure as waking up.

Never physically punish your ferret for any reason, as they will only learn to be afraid of you. Most ferrets get along well with each other and they usually get along with cats and dogs, as long as they are given time to go through a slow introduction.