

Paw Print Issue #16 - January 2012

A Tail of Two Ferrets

There are no holidays for animal shelters, nor, it seems, for animal abuse. In the last few weeks, FACT received two ferrets that had been starved.

A cat rescuer we've worked with before brought Jamie to us on Christmas Eve. She was picking up a dog at a large regional shelter and a woman arrived with two ferrets - one alive (barely), and one dead. They had been left in a basement and the live one was curled up next to her deceased friend.

The second was found outside on a Saturday night. When the finder called us, it was 3 days later and the ferret hadn't eaten anything offered. Little Fellow was older, about 4, with an enlarged spleen and raw anal area. We were careful to introduce food slowly and gave him fluids. His rear legs just dragged behind him, but after a day he perked up and even spent an hour wandering around my office until he grew tired. We had such hopes for him...but during the second night he appeared to have a stroke and his front legs became useless, also. Round the clock fluid and food therapy didn't improve his condition, and we had to let him pass.

Jamie, being only about 2, had more strength and less other compromising medical conditions. Within days she was beginning to eat kibble and has since nearly doubled her weight. She plays and hops despite some hind leg weakness we believe was from an old untreated injury. We don't know if she will have lingering effects of her ordeal, but hope to place her in a dependable new adoptive home soon.

One win, one loss...and another "holiday" season passes. Even after 20 years, it still saddens me to see people throw away helpless creatures like these. We hope YOUR holidays were happy & warm, and hope when you hug your beloved pets, you will continue to remember not all ferrets are so fortunate. Here's to a better New Year to all!

L. Vanessa Gruden
Shelter Director

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Events

Local readers are all welcome to attend the annual FACT Open House and member party on Sunday, January 22nd. Hours are noon to 3 pm. Light refreshments will be served, and the Ferret Treasures Store will be open to stock up on handmade bedding and human goodies that Santa may have failed to bring you. Visit mapquest.com for directions.

Can't make it? We are still honoring all prices in our Winter 2011 Sale flyer! You can download the sale flyer at: <http://www.ferret-fact.org/winter2011.pdf>

Special Ferret Lover Sale: Ferret Patches & HotFix Appliques



Crafty ferret folks will want to take advantage of this deal! Ann Gruden, FACT's President, is offering a 35% discount through January 31st on all the exclusive ferret items carried in her online store, 1 Ferret's Treasures (www.1ferretstresures.com). Just use code FURO upon checkout. Ann sells the biggest selection of patches to be found and she has over 20 different ferret items, including our logo, which directly benefits FACT. She ships daily to

Hot Tips!

Price Chopper is a grocery chain with locations in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania and Vermont. Right now they are rearranging their stores and discontinuing lots of items, which are being sold at 50-60% off.

Among the gourmet and organic foods and other items, my local store had a LOT of discounted pet products. I found a cat hairball paste for \$2.99 and lots of pet toys - some as low as 40 cents. I also snagged a few infant Orajel toothpaste tubes for \$1.15 each. Did you know you can use infant toothpaste to clean your ferret's teeth? As long as the paste is OK to be swallowed, it works for pets also and often comes in ferret-tasty flavors like Berry. Speaking of dirty ferret teeth...

February is National Pet Dental Health Month, so most hospitals offer special discounts for dental work. For some, it's so popular that they may extend the discount period from late January into early March.

If your ferret's teeth look like THIS, get them to the vet for a cleaning ASAP!



California Residents Needed!

LegalizeFerrets.org is again working hard to have a ferret legalization bill introduced into the CA Legislative Council. **They need people to write or call their representatives by January 27th!**

To learn how to help, please visit their website right away!

national and international customers.

Valentine's Day Cards

As a special FACT fundraiser, Vanessa crafted three slightly off-kilter Valentines. Being sold on Etsy, one specifically for animal lovers reminds everyone that sometimes the best kind of love is already right at your feet. Another, featuring a quote by *The Simpsons* creator Matt Groening, reminds us love isn't always fun - especially when "the ice weasels come!" And the third is just for anyone who could use a little extra hug on the "holiday for lovers" - personally, I think we singles get left out and send Valentine cards to every unattached person I know. You can see the cards in detail on Etsy.com.

Ferret Education at Petco

On Saturday, January 21, Annie and Rudy will be at the Milford Petco store from noon to 2 pm. Along with them will be Stuffie the Amazing Ferret Puppet, who sings, dances, and provides general entertainment. Please stop by with your ferret questions and watch out for Stuffie! He's been known to be quite a wiseacre. If you can't make it this weekend, they will be there again on Sunday, Feb. 12.

Thank You for Helping!

We still have 2012 FACT photo magnet mini-calendars available and would be delighted to send one as a gift to anyone who donates \$10 or more directly to FACT. FACT is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. To donate, visit our site: and click Make a Donation or you can go direct to Paypal.com. Just send your gift to donation@ferret-fact.org. Hint: To avoid Paypal charging us a fee, when you click "Send Money" look for the "personal" tab and click "gift." Thank you!



Paw Print is published by the [Ferret Association of Connecticut](http://www.ferret-fact.org), Inc., a nonprofit humane organization dedicated to helping ferret owners, caretakers, and most importantly, the ferrets themselves. Website: www.ferret-fact.org.

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