

Paw Print Issue #24 - January 2012

Happy New Year!

Happy 2013 to all our Readers and Supporters!

Numbers in our shelter have really dropped, which always gives shelter directors a puffy tail! We actually had more people looking for ferrets than we had available before Christmas. Several of the other Northeast shelters were in similar circumstances. Why? Not sure, exactly, but a report from the American Pet Product Manufacturers Association indicates that ferret ownership dropped in 2010. Not a huge percent, but maybe enough to make a difference to those being abandoned when they are 1-3 years old. Also, the lousy economy for the past few years may have led to less impulse ferret purchases. Of course, EVERY shelter still has elderly animals in need of homes! If you can open your heart to an oldie, you'll be repaid many times over in love and gratitude.

The canine distemper fundraiser featured below is a fun way for Facebook folks to help ferrets. But even if you don't join in, please follow the link to the photos taken of the "travelling ferret" here in Connecticut. For those who may never have a chance to visit, it's a great virtual tour of our headquarters! The second link is to photos uploaded by the staff at our regular shelter vet, Dr. Barrios of the East Hartford Animal Clinic. The plushie "under anesthesia" photo is priceless.

L. Vanessa Gruden, Shelter Director



Xavier: A Ferret Abroad Canine Distemper Fundraiser

By Ann Gruden

Late fall of 2011, a shelter in England got hit with distemper, losing over 100 ferrets to the devastating illness and leaving them with a vet and euthanasia bill in excess of \$2,500. (There is no approved CD vaccine in England and while the disease is rare, it broke out in the countryside and affected two shelters particularly hard).

While a good portion of the bills were paid, almost half remained. A small group was formed including Ann Gruden from FACT along with four other popular Facebook fund-raising regulars with human/ferret personas from England, Australia, France, and Canada. They began to circulate a starring crew of 4 adorable plush toy ferrets that are travelling the world, raising awareness about canine distemper as well as raising funds to combat disease outbreaks.

The concept is simple. For an \$8 donation, a "ferrant" (the donor) gets to have a visit from the region's plush ferret for a week. They can take photos or video of the plush toy interacting with them in their home, at work, around town, at the vets office (No plushie/live ferret interaction allowed due to the potential to spread illness, plus a few other sensible rules). The results are posted to the group site on Facebook for members to enjoy and the plushie is mailed to the next participant. The creativity of people is simply amazing and brings the Facebook sharing experience to a whole new level as the plushie acts as a "surrogate" visitor to new lands and new adventures, all in a family friendly way.

So far the group has raised over \$1,000 and retired the English shelter's outstanding debt. The next goal is to raise a \$1,000 "cushion" fund that will be ready at a moment's notice for any shelter in the world to draw upon in the event of an outbreak. Other charitable works are under development as well. The power of Facebook to raise money for ferret shelters has been demonstrated by many events. However, it takes time - two to three weeks to advertise the need, launch auctions, collect & disperse money. In the interim, ferrets will die without immediate treatment. The idea behind this fund is to have money ready for immediate use to get booster vaccinations and treatments.



14 Sherbrooke Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106-3838

www.ferret-fact.org

Ferret Calendar Flash Sale!



It's not too late to get a 2013 ferret calendar!

The Ferret Association of Connecticut has teamed up with the California Ferret legalization effort to liquidate their stock of calendars. Supplies are limited and the price is GREAT!

This full color, glossy calendar's theme is "12 Things Every Ferret Needs" - like Love, Understanding, & Vet Care. Size is 8.5 x 11".

Bargain Priced!

1 calendar only \$7 including shipping.

Bonus! 2 calendars for \$10.

Payment Options:

Check: pay to FACT, 14 Sherbrooke Ave, Hartford, CT 06106

Paypal: send to info@ferret-fact.org.

Credit/Debit: Call 860.247.1275

Open House & Donor/Member Party

Saturday, January 26th is FACT's annual member & donor party. Doors are open to anyone who would like to visit! Light lunch/snacks/soda will be offered, the Ferret Treasures store is open, and the shelter fuzzies would be happy to be cuddled. Hours are noon to 3 pm. Heavy snow date is February 2. The address is 14 Sherbrooke Avenue, Hartford, CT.

FACT at Petco

FACT member Ashley will be at the Stratford Petco on Sunday, January 19. She will have FACT handouts, a current list of ferrets for adoption, and offering ferret information. Ashley will also perform ferret grooming for a small donation to the shelter. For \$5, you can have either nails clipped or ears cleaning. For an \$8 donation, Ashley will do both! Make sure YOUR fuzzy is ready to greet the holidays in tip-top grooming shape.

FACT is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. To donate, visit our site: www.ferret-fact.org, or click on the purple heart to go to Paypal. Thank you!



The group is free to see the plushies' adventures photos (it is a "closed" group, so you must ask to join to fully experience everything). If you wish to sponsor a plushie for a visit, one of the admins will be happy to show you how. FACT will hold funds on behalf of the group so no monies go astray. Thus far, everything is percolating along safely and successfully. People seem to be having a great time and we look forward to having more ferret lovers participate! As more people join, they keep adding more plush ferrets. Some folks have even signed up for a second "visit!" Hope to see YOU there! Two distemper Facebook links:

[FACT headquarters](#)

[East Hartford Animal Shelter](#)

Visit us on [Facebook](#) and sign up for our [Twitter feed](#) for ongoing stories of ferrets and humans that FACT helps!

Paw Print is the [Ferret Association of Connecticut](#)'s online newsletter. You are receiving this message because you contacted us for information. If you do NOT want to be on our e-mail list, please click [here](#) to unsubscribe! FACT never sells or rents our e-mail lists.

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Our e-mail: info@ferret-fact.org

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