

# Paw Print #32 March 2014



## No Purevax Vaccine for 2014

In a previous issue, we reported the problems with the production of Purevax™ canine distemper vaccine for ferrets. Since at least last June, there have been continual postponements in production, despite pleas from concerned owners. Now, it has been confirmed by Merial that there will be no Purevax™ vaccine in 2014. For many people, this means their ferrets have been unprotected for at least 9 months. What can you do?

**Talk to your vet.** Most are reluctant to use an “unapproved” vaccine, simply because a vaccine is not licensed for use does not mean it’s ineffective. Many human medicines are not “approved” by a governmental agency for use in animals but are commonly used.

**One option** being used by several large ferret shelters in the US, including FACT and the Washington Ferret Rescue, is Nobivac Puppy DPV, manufactured by Intervet. While Nobivac is designed for puppies and also contains protection against parvovirus, which does not affect ferrets, Nobivac was created with the same strain of virus that was used in Galaxy D, which, prior to its discontinuance, was a popular vaccine choice. Galaxy D was never technically approved for ferrets, either, but experiential data indicated it worked fine. Nobivac has been used for years in the United Kingdom and Australia, where there was never a specific approved canine distemper vaccine for ferrets. FACT has had over 30 ferrets vaccinated with Nobivac with no adverse reactions.

For vets with a small ferret practice, Nobivac has the disadvantage of only being available in 25-dose packs. If this poses a problem we suggest they either partner with another vet office or with a local shelter to share. Each dose is contained in tamper-proof bottles, so there is no risk of contamination once the wrapped pack is opened. While vets can check with their regular distributors, we found great prices and customer service at Revival Animal Health ([www.revivalanimalhealth.com](http://www.revivalanimalhealth.com)).

**For area residents,** FACT has initiated a special program to help ferrets obtain protection. The CD Catch Up Package is detailed below.

Mark your calendars! Ferretopia, our annual ferret event, has been scheduled. Read about a special new component in the next column.

The [Ferret Shelters Directory](#) is looking great! We were pleased to obtain a small article about the site in *Animal Sheltering*, the magazine for animal shelters and rescues published by the Humane Society of the U.S. If you are a ferret shelter, it’s a great publication full of news and information you can use. And at \$18 per year, it’s a bargain. Visit their [Site](#) for subscription information.

Here’s hoping spring comes soon!

**L. Vanessa Gruden**  
Executive Director



CD Catch Up Package

As a special public service to regional ferret owners, FACT has arranged with two vets in Connecticut for you to obtain lower cost canine distemper vaccinations. The program will run immediately, through July 1. Each vet is setting their own requirements, but all are giving you a special discount in order to get your ferrets current on their CD shots. Vaccinations will be done with Nobivac DPV.

Please be sure to say you are scheduling a “CD Catch Up” appointment when you call! If other medical tests, vaccinations, or services are needed, those will, of course, be an additional charge. This is a **limited-time special!** Please schedule your appointment before June 1.

Angel Animal Hospital, 32 Elm Street, West Haven, CT 06516

Phone: 203.934.3536

Package consists of an exam, CD vaccination and medical disposal waste fee. Cost is \$32.

East Hartford Animal Clinic, 109 Connecticut Boulevard, East Hartford, CT 06108

## Ferretopia

May 10, 11 am - 3 pm, Wallingford Grange Hall, 586 Center Street, Wallingford, CT.

**New this year!**

Melatonin implant **BUY ONE, GIVE ONE.**

What’s melatonin? It’s a hormone made by the pineal gland that helps regulate body rhythms. It’s used a lot for people with jet lag – it’s also used in ferrets with adrenal disease. It’s not a cure, but a natural supplement that can help alleviate symptoms such as hair loss, vulva swelling, or prostate enlargement. Does your ferret have adrenal disease? Melatonin implants last for 4 months. While they won’t work for every ferret, they help many.

With this special, you can get an implant done by a licensed vet PLUS give one to a shelter ferret! The cost is only \$50. You MUST reserve and pay for the implant in advance. To reserve, just e-mail us at [info@ferret-fact.org](mailto:info@ferret-fact.org) and we’ll send you a Paypal invoice.

Watch for next issue for more Ferretopia details. And remember, if you want to bring your ferret, they must have a current canine distemper vaccination. See the **Catch Up Package** for a deal!

**Ferrets for Adoption**



Taz & Whitmore are a pair of 2-3 year old sable boys who came to us due to an eviction. Taz had a tumor on the end of his tail and Whitmore had a

Phone: 860.282.8989

Package consists of an exam, CD vaccination and medical disposal waste fee. Cost is \$50.

Special thanks to the above animal hospitals for their care and concern for the health of pet ferrets!

### Helping Hands Wants Your "Stuff!"

It's spring cleaning time! And the [Helping Hands Thrift Store](#) is happy to accept donations of clothing, books, furniture and small and large appliances.

It's a great way to clean out your home, and a great way to give that costs you nothing, since as long as you indicate FACT on your donation form, we earn a commission when your items sell. In the greater New Haven area, Helping Hands will even come to your home to pick up larger donations. Don't have a lot of stuff yourself? If you organize a work, family or neighborhood central drop, they'll be happy to come pick everything up at once. Remember, donations are eligible for a tax deduction. Helping Hands also offers a "furniture bank" for low-income residents who need to furnish apartments. You can visit their [site](#) to learn more about their donation centers and programs. And if you love thrift store shopping, their stores are open for business! They have weekly specials - this Friday there's a deal on art, lamps & vases - and they even have some special items online. Check them out!



fluid-filled cyst that was as big as your fist. Both were promptly surgically removed, and the boys are ready for a fur-ever home. They are sweet little fellows who never beat up other ferrets and really love each other. Interested? Please e-mail us for an application!



### Helping from Afar

Maybe you'd love to help out, but live in another state - or another country! How can you support FACT ferrets?

Our Foster Ferret Program is unique. We place designated Foster ferrets - those that arrive already elderly or sick - into permanent homes with associate members. FACT helps pay their medical bills, and they live with an experienced caretaker for the rest of their lives. It's a real home for animals that are not "desirable" to the average adopter, and who may have suffered neglect previously.

The program is funded by kind people - and yes, we have donors across the country and beyond - who become a sponsor to a Foster ferret for only \$5 per month. In return, you get a photo of your new "grandchild" and a bi-monthly newsletter telling you about all the ferrets in the program for as long as you choose to participate.

Interested? We're happy to send more info! Just e-mail [info@ferret-act.org](mailto:info@ferret-act.org).



Don't forget to go to [www.amazon.smile.com](http://www.amazon.smile.com) and earn your designated charity a commission on lots of purchases! Click their logo above and it will take you right to FACT's specific landing page. Thanks!



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