

Paw Print

Issue #22 - October 2012

Ferret Treasures Online Store Opens

Woohoo! Just in time for the start of the holiday shopping season, we are delighted to introduce a brand new, separate site for all the great ferret bedding and gift items sold by FACT. Come and visit www.FerretTreasures.com and see all the cool stuff that helps support the shelter. All the bedding items are handmade here at the shelter and we have some of the sturdiest and reasonably priced blankets and sleep sacks anywhere.

Do you receive our postal mailings? There's a way you can help us by reducing our mailing costs AND get a discount coupon for the new online store! We're trying to cut down on the physical mail for our annual donor letter and sale flyer. So if you normally receive them and you're happy to accept an e-mail version, [let us know!](#) As a thanks, we'll send you back a discount code good for 10% off your online product order. Save the environment, save FACT some money, and save 10%! It just doesn't get any better than that, does it?

For those who have been following our friend Malin's progress, here's a photo of him shortly after the surgery to remove the little tumors behind either ear. No stitches or distractions will keep Malin from munching his favorite treat.



L. Vanessa Gruden
Shelter Director

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.

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

Interesting Research on Ferrets as a Domestic Species

In late August, the PLOSone scientific journal site published a research paper that compared domestic ferrets and wild mustelids, including domestic/wild hybrids, on socialization factors. The researchers studied interactive skills with humans that have been found in other domestic species, especially dogs.

Domestic dog breeds have been found to tolerate eye to eye contact with humans much longer than wild or hybrid species. They can also seem to "follow" actions from humans that indicate where food can be found - such as a human pointing to a bucket with food beneath it - whereas wild dogs do not understand human body language. They are also more inclined to accept food from their owner, rather than a stranger. These skills are believed to be a product of domestication, making these domestic species more attuned to humans.

The ferrets ranked similarly to dogs when asked to look into their owner's eyes, to recognize a pointing gesture from people, and in their preference to take food from their owner.



14 Sherbrooke Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106-3838

www.ferret-fact.org

FACT at Petco

Due to the invasion of the Chihuahuas (and other rescue dogs!) at the Milford Petco location every weekend, our members Rudy & Annie have temporarily suspended the monthly visits in order to retain their sanity. Never fear, southern CT residents! Ashley will regularly be at the Stratford Petco, only a few miles away. Ashley is also going to be performing 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! She'll also be happy to teach you how to do these simple chores yourself.

The hours Ashley will be at Petco are 3:30-7 pm.

Here's her schedule:

Saturday, October 20th

Saturday, November 17th

Saturday, December 15th

Saturday, January 19th

2013 Calendars to Benefit Ferrets

FACT used to sell calendars, but the postage costs just became prohibitive. Several other organizations and shelters also create ferret calendars to help support their work. Here are two:

Ferrets with Soul(e)



Measuring 11"x8.5" with full bleed color printing, wire bound & printed on 250 gsm heavy weight premium thick paper. The price is \$15 for the calendar with free domestic & international shipping. Be aware they are special order so can take 3 weeks; make sure you place holiday orders early! You can also purchase a combo pack with the calendar, 10 holiday cards, I luv Ferrets t-shirt, canvas tote bag & a notebook.

The entire paper is chock full of scientific charts and references (you can read it [here](#) but the fascinating part is how high the “human social-cognitive skills” of ferrets are.

For those of you who find yourself arguing with folks who still imagine ferrets are wild, this research very clearly points out ferrets are DOMESTIC animals!

Helping for Free: Ebates

Have you seen their ads on tv? Unlike some online sites that can be a little iffy, Ebates is legitimate. When you sign up and enter participating stores through the ebates.com website, you can earn up to 25% of your purchase as a rebate. Most rebates, of course, are for more modest amounts, but they have 1,500 (!)online merchants. Some examples and the rebate amounts:

- Home Depot - 3%
- Target.com - 2%
- Ferret.com - 6%
- itunes - 3%
- Macy's - 6%
- Radio Shack - 2.5%
- Groupon - 3%

There are some really nice aspects to their program: There are regular specials and daily deals that increase the amount of your rebate, especially on holiday weekends. There are no forms to complete. While you can choose to receive a check, you can also have your rebates deposited right to your paypal account. When you become a member AND make at least a \$25 purchase using the program within the first 90 days, you receive a \$10 gift card to really useful stores like Home Depot or Target.

So what part helps ferrets? There are two ways to help and both are pretty painless! One is a simple referral bonus. Use this link <http://www.ebates.com/rf.do?referrerid=OAA01> and when you have activated and made your first purchase, FACT will receive \$5. Another way to help on an ongoing basis is to set up your rebates to go directly to FACT! When you set up your profile and tell ebates how to distribute your rebates, you can actually enter our e-mail address (donation@ferret-fact.org) and they will send your rebates directly to our paypal account. Of course, you can change that option should you be buying a Mercedes online and want to keep the rebate for yourself!

While we still encourage folks to use igive or goodsearch for your online searches, ebates is a better deal as far as shopping donations go. Sure, they make a commission from the retailer, but they are sharing it with you. And they promise not to sell or rent your e-mail address to anyone else.

Options for the cards, tote bag & notebooks can be requested from the creator. It's a great opportunity get a few affordable Christmas gifts in one single purchase. The package deal is going for \$35 with free domestic shipping. Part of proceeds benefit Ferrets with Soul(e) shelter is Gardnersville, Nevada. To order or for more details, contact ferretgoodies@gmail.com.

Californians for Ferret Legalization

A 12 Month Calendar Featuring *Twelve Things Every Ferret Needs*. Graphics by Heidi Ames and Photography by Robert Payne. Ferrets photos donated by readers and supporters of CLIFFNotes. The price for one is \$15 and you can order here: <http://www.ferretsanon.com/>



Thank You for Helping!

FACT is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. To donate, visit our site: [Make a Donation](#), or click on the purple heart to go to Paypal. 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](#), Inc., a nonprofit humane organization dedicated to helping ferret owners, caretakers, and most importantly, the ferrets themselves. Website: www.ferret-fact.org. © 2012. All rights reserved.

For those reading pdf version, links are as follows:

Ferret Assoc. of CT: www.ferret-fact.org

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

To donate via Paypal, visit www.paypal.com and make payment to donation@ferret-fact.org

To visit us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ferret-Association-of-Connecticut-Inc/119675484716286>

To sign up for our Twitter feed: <http://twitter.com/ferretfact>

PLOsone Journal: <http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0043267>