

Paw Print

Issue #14 - November 2011

Free!

It took longer than expected, but the shelter is now free of canine distemper. We tested 4 animals the first week of August, but were sad to learn 2 had test results indicating they remained positive. While showing no symptoms, neither could they be totally cleared of illness. We had to wait until after Labor Day to test again, and were delighted to hear that the results for those 2 as well as 2 additional animals were now negative. A week later, after scrubbing & bleaching, we were accepting ferrets once again!

Of course, this now means we have a LOT of ferrets for adoption! For those that are interested in obtaining ferrets that have not come from a large ferret breeder, we have 2 pairs of boys seeking special homes. All have been neutered but not descented, and we will require scent gland removal surgery not be done unless they develop serious glandular issues that medically necessitate it. Casanova and Don Juan were found outdoors by different people, but they came from the same local neighborhood. When we were able to reunite them, it was obvious they are brothers; they look and act exactly alike and they immediately bonded. Both are about a year old and are small sable fellows. They love to play and leap at people and are good with other ferrets. They sometimes nip a little hard when playing, so are best for experienced ferret owners without children. Spencer & Elliot, the other pair of boys, have become good with people but are NOT good with other ferrets. They should only go to a very experienced, patient home with no other ferrets and no children. They are big, healthy, handsome black sable boys, about 1-2 years old. They need regular attention or they become upset and will begin to bite again - HARD. They are smart and somewhere they learned biting is the way to express their displeasure. But they actually love human attention and love being held and stroked. We also have a number of other ferrets, aged 1-3 (mostly boys) who both arrived from temporary homes and are new intakes. You can check out our [Petfinder](#) page for more details. Please consider adopting if you can!!!

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.

Canine Distemper Strikes United Kingdom

We're sorry to report another outbreak of canine distemper has struck the ferret community, this time in Great Britain. The last we heard, 46 ferrets had died in one shelter and two other ferret shelters also had losses.

There is no "approved" canine distemper vaccine in the UK, so most, if not all, of their ferrets were unvaccinated. Some of the various posts I found online mentioned people seeing signs of distemper in England as early as April and May of this year.



14 Sherbrooke Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106-3838 www.ferret-fact.org

Ferret Treasures Store Sale

Local residents are welcome to stop into the shelter on December 3 for our semi-annual sale and open house. FACT carries a wide array of hammocks, sleepers, and ferret gifts. We also have a selection of used items - water bottles, bowls, cages, bedding, and shampoo - at rock bottom prices starting as low as 50 cents. Hours are noon to 3 pm and you can get directions [here](#).



Winter Sales Flyer Out!

Those who've received mailings from FACT know we no longer have a full catalog, but do spring and winter flyers with selected ferret and ferret-loving human goodies. The 2011 Winter Sale flyer is done and full of our exclusive hammocks, pouches, and gift packs. This year we have new, wonderful jewelry (see photo above). Available as a

of distemper in England as early as April and May of this year. Sadly, it seems to have found its way to their shelters. Both FACT and the Washington State Ferret Rescue have been in touch offering what information we can to assist in the care of ill ferrets.

Currently there are some fundraisers and auctions going on to benefit those shelters struggling through this crisis. Many have ended but more items may be put up. If you're a Facebook member, please check them out at:

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/event.php?eid=216390345093760>

Information the UK outbreak is rather spotty; but there are a couple pages I found with data:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Kent-Ferret-Club/377203532645>

<http://starescue.org.uk/>

<http://www.ferretsforum.co.uk>

Our Board President, Ann Gruden, will also be posting info as she comes across it on [her Facebook page](#). Our thoughts and prayers go out to those shelters and the homeless animals for whom they are caring.

Hot Tip!

For those who simply MUST have every cool ferret item available, this year Lowe's Home Improvement stores is carrying a 14" tall, animated, singing "meerkat." (If you check [Ann Gruden's Facebook page](#), she has a video of it in action posted on October 28.)

Really, it looks JUST like a ferret and when you press the foot, it begins to shimmy, sing "Rocking Around the Christmas Tree," and its cheeks light up red. It is truly funny and is sure to become a collectible item. The price is about \$18 but you can replace the batteries, so you can have a singing Christmas ferret for years to come. Check out your local Lowe's seasonal section - if you buy it online (you can pick up in-store for free) we'd be grateful if you'd go to their website via igive.com or goodsearch.com, where your purchase can earn FACT (or another charity of your choice) up to 2% of the sale. As an extra, if you are join igive as a new member and use it for surfing for 90 days, they'll give FACT a \$10 per person bonus. Thanks!

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.

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necklace, pin, or earrings, they have metal alloy bases (lead- and nickel-free) and are set with clear rhinestones. Each is 1" tall. To see prices - and check all the other neat goodies we have available - go here to download a [pdf](#) of our winter flyer.

To order via e-mail or request a pdf, click [here](#). Yes, we accept paypal! By postal mail we accept US personal checks, MasterCard or Visa. You can also place a phone order with your credit card - please call us after 6 pm EST. International orders will need to let us calculate postage to your country.



Please note: I've had trouble getting a link to us at paypal to work properly; sorry! Just visit paypal.com and make your donation payable to donation@ferret-fact.org. **Thank you!!**