

Paw Print November 2013 Issue #29



Winter's Coming!

Welcome to our (slightly) delayed newest issue of Paw Print! We've been busy here with all the ferrets coming in & out and our annual donor mailing, which those of you on our postal mail list will have received. Don't worry; all of you on our e-news list will be seeing it, too!

By the way, last year we asked people if they preferred to only receive gift requests via e-mail. Of those who agreed, nary a one ended up donating. (VERY sad face.) I think it's just way too easy for one e-mail to get lost in the piles of messages received, and we won't annoy you by sending continual requests. We ask ONCE by e-mail and ONCE by post at the end of the year.

FACT depends primarily on gifts from generous donors, but we also work (hard!) to earn money other ways. One is by the sales of ferret items. (See attached Sale Flyer!) Another is earning commissions from companies and websites that donate back a portion of sales. (We NEVER sell or rent our mailing lists.) This month, Amazon has launched a new initiative, Amazon Smiles, that lets you buy products at this huge online retailer while giving back to FACT. Please learn more below how your holiday shopping can help ferrets!

Last we heard, the Greater Chicago shelter was awaiting test results that would clear them for new intakes. They are hoping to be able to reopen December 1. Thank you to everyone who donated and helped Moira, Steven and the rest of their volunteers during this difficult time. I'm sure they have many wonderful ferrets seeking homes!

As do we...usually around the holidays abandonments slow down and adoptions pick up. But while we have adopted out a number of ferrets, more in need continue to arrive. The greatest gift you can give to a needy ferret is a loving home to call their own. And the best gift you can give a shelter operator is an empty shelter!

I plan to write again soon! In the meantime, check out some of our upcoming events and the very, very cool ferret goodies contained in our attached Winter Sale Flyer. If the pdf doesn't download, you can see it [here](#).

Thanks for listening!

L. Vanessa Gruden, Executive Director



FACT, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. You can donate via paypal at: donate@ferret-fact.org.

Events

Ferret Treasures Store Sale – December 8

For those who love great ferret supplies & gifts, the semi-annual Store Sale at FACT in Hartford is the mother lode! Sure, we take items for sale to some events, and we offer more on our website, www.ferrettreasures.com, or in our sale flyer, but the very best place to see ALL the goodies we have is at FACT Headquarters. There's an entire room full of sleepers, hammocks, beds, and gifts. PLUS you get to meet all the furry faces in the shelter - a lot of supply purchasers have fallen in love with a REAL ferret, too! Hours are noon to 3 pm and the address is 14 Sherbrooke Avenue, Hartford, CT. Here's a sample of an item not otherwise available in the US. This 13-14" long polecat is made in Europe and was imported by us. You can order one for \$20 + \$3 shipping (US) by e-mailing info@ferret-fact.org. But why stop at one item? Visit the sale or our [sale flyer](#) for even more neat stuff.



Adoption Days

Come visit FACT at two different area pet stores in December. We'll be at the Petco store on Kitts Lane in Newington on December 15 for a meet & greet with some adoptable fuzzies. On December 29, we'll be at the Pet Supplies Plus store on Albany Avenue in West Hartford. Hours at both are 11 am - 2 pm. This is one of the few times Vanessa really LOVES visitors, as too often there are little children wandering around and she needs to be distracted so she doesn't bite them.

For Adoption!



Purevax Update

In our last issue, the manufacturer of the approved ferret canine distemper vaccine, Merial Animal Health, was quoting mid-October as the anticipated date production would be resumed. I HAD heard rumors of mid-December from a couple vet sources.

However, October came and went with no vaccines. Now "December" is the date projected by Merial. Can we trust that date?

Leaving ferrets with no approved vaccine from June (when the last batch expired) until December is outrageous. With the fear of distemper always in our thoughts, FACT has had to obtain a different vaccine to at least try to protect our rescued animals.

Nobivac DPV is manufactured by Intervet. It is a puppy vaccine designed to protect against canine distemper plus parvovirus. While ferrets have no need of parvo protection, Nobivac's distemper formula was created from the same strain of the disease as the late, lamented Galaxy D.

Nobivac has been used in Europe and Australia for years. Both places have no other ferret distemper vaccine available. A number of US shelters, like us, have also been forced by the unavailability of Purevax to switch to Nobivac. Thus far, reactions seem minor.

The GOOD news is that Nobivac is about 1/3 the price of Purevax AND is readily available through veterinary supply companies. Many are happy to sell direct to shelters. (Note to anyone who thinks they can vaccinate their own animals: a) vaccines should be administered by a vet or with veterinary supervision; b) you have to purchase 25-dose packs, which is not cost-effective for private owners.)

We were referred to [Revival Animal Health](#) by the Washington State ferret rescue. They have low prices for Nobivac and their customer service was friendly and helpful. We recommend them to other shelters. Veterinarians normally have their own pharmaceutical suppliers, but if they don't think they can use up 25 doses (you need a good-sized ferret practice), please consider partnering with your local ferret shelter to purchase doses.

Amazon Smiles Helps Ferrets!



Cool new way to help ferrets without it costing YOU a penny! If you shop at amazon - and who doesn't? - instead of the old site, simply bookmark www.smile.amazon.com. After you select a favorite charity, shop! In the same area where you would see if a product is available for free shipping, you'll see if it is eligible for a donation to FACT. The percentage is small - .5% of your purchase, but those checks can REALLY add up. Thanks!!!

So many! Included in this pile are Vlad & Muki. Muki is a sable mitt lady. Vlad is NOT an impaler! He's a very handsome albino boy who loves to play and chase toys. They are both about 2 years old and get along very well with other ferrets. But they also love each other, so we don't want to separate them.

One pair that's been here since March (!) are Freddie & Farina. Almost twins, but one is a boy and one a girl. Both are platinum silvers who get along really well with other ferrets. Farina is inclined to nip a little...mostly to see if she can get away with it! 2.5 years now, these little ferrets could REALLY use a home. Somehow they keep getting overlooked and while many others have come & gone, Freddie & Farina remain. Could YOU be the right human for them?

We have single ferrets for adoption, too! All get along with others and would be a great holiday addition to your ferret family. For example, Junior is a hefty dark chocolate less than a year old. Active, bouncy, and into everything, Junior will live up your home. Interested in Junior or one of the pairs mentioned above? Contact us right away! Just e-mail info@ferret-fact.org.

Xavier Canine Distemper Fund Update

Small Animal Channel recently did a great article about the ongoing Facebook group, Xavier - A Ferret Abroad, which raises money to help shelters. An emergency fund helps in the case of an outbreak, but the fund ALSO offers small grants for shelters who hold vaccination clinics. Yes, a shelter can use it to help pay for vaccinations for shelter ferrets, too! You can read all about the fund on Facebook or read Marylou Zarbock's article [here](#).

Attachments:

[2013 winter flyer.pdf \(227K\)](#)