

Paw Print - Issue #10 - December 2010

The “Most Wonderful’ Season?

Or so the song says...unfortunately, it's not always so great for pets, who continue to be abandoned most years up to & including on Christmas eve. In Connecticut, Thanksgiving saw the confiscation of 17 ferrets from a hoarding situation. FACT received 7 of them, mostly older and/or ill. In Washington state, one person gave up 90 ferrets(!). I know other ferret shelters are also in need. Even if you don't choose to donate to us, please consider helping another of the worthy shelters across the country who are doing so much to care for homeless animals. If you can, do them and YOURSELF a favor and adopt a new furry buddy for the New Year!

This issue contains our annual appeal letter, which was mailed to our postal mail list. We apologize if you are “seeing double” by receiving this appeal, also. We're working on merging both databases to avoid overlap. In last issue, the link for our Holiday Sale flyer was incomplete: [here](#) is the correct one. (My favorite quote: “I am not perfect. If you want perfect, you gotta pay better.”)

Thank you for caring about ferrets, and best wishes for a wonderful holiday.

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.

Because Homeless Ferrets Can't Collect Cans



The Ferret Association of Connecticut accepted our first abandoned ferret in September of 1991. As we head into our 20th year of operation, some things have changed, but too much has not.



14 Sherbrooke Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106-3838

www.ferret-fact.org

Ferrets In Need

We always have young ferrets for adoption, but right now we are in great need of some truly **special** homes for some truly special ferrets. These animals are eligible for our Foster program, which places them permanently with kind people able to give them the care the need for the rest of their lives. You can read more about what's involved with being a Foster caretaker [here](#). If you can't Foster yourself but want to help, you can sponsor one of these gentle survivors [here](#).



Sylvie (above) is only 1-2 years old and adorable. A kind lady rescued her and her friend from someone who was going to abandon them on the street in the Bronx and drove them to Hartford. Sylvie is crippled. She has nerve damage along her spine and can't use her back legs. She can pee & poop without assistance, but she does soil herself and bedding daily. Sylvie is fat (she's doubled in size since her arrival), fluffy, and has a perfectly wicked sense of ferret fun,

Then, ferrets were illegal in several states. Large humane groups called them inappropriate pets. Local and regional animal shelters routinely euthanised them upon arrival. As we prepare for 2011, only California & Hawaii ban ferrets. National groups offer care and adoption information. And more animal shelters, including local pounds, work to find homes for ferrets. So, why can't we declare "Mission accomplished!" and stop asking you to read letters like this? Because our mission may never be complete. It is likely there will always be a need for species-specific groups like FACT to provide long-term care of the old and disabled, rehabilitate frightened or abused animals, and ensure that ferrets don't fall between the cracks in high volume shelters. Who else will drive 30 miles on a thundery evening to meet a kind person who discovered 9 discarded ferrets in a big box? Who will agree to work with a biting youngster? Who will maintain a volunteer network to transport animals when an owner isn't able or willing to bring them to a shelter? Who will answer the call when a ferret is abandoned at a pet store, or step in to provide long-term care for an animal other shelters can't rehome due to age or disability?

***FACT's history and record speaks for itself.
We are advocates for the ferrets.***

Every donation helps and is acknowledged. If you can give a little more, we'll show our appreciation with a small gift – for donations of at least \$10, we send one of our signature magnets – this year featuring the lip-licking fellow shown above. For gifts of \$50 or more, we will send a small 2011 calendar to help remind you throughout the year of your kindness to homeless ferrets. FACT is a 501(C)(3) non-profit and donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law. You can donate by mail (send your gift to FACT, 14 Sherbrooke Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106) or via paypal to donation@ferretfact.org. We can also take MasterCard/Visa; just call us at 860.247.1275.

Until homeless ferrets learn to collect cans to buy food and shelter for themselves, a special place of care will be always needed. And as long as there are wonderful people like you willing to help, we'll continue our work on their behalf. **Thank you.**



which makes her nip ankles and rip up paper whenever she's in the mood. We recently created a mobility aid from a shin guard and a plastic furniture floor slider that allows her to motor around easier. She's a happy, wonderful little soul who needs someone with lots of love and a home where she can live in a playpen or similar area - she can't navigate a cage.

Miso & Edamame: So named because it looked like their diet consisted primarily of those famous Japanese vegetarian dishes. They were being starved by their owner and were rescued by a concerned neighbor. Both about 4, Miso has adrenal disease and had a gumball-sized tumor in one ear, which we had removed. He has learned to love gruel and is putting on weight fast. Edamame is a sable lady who – possibly due to a previous stroke – wobbles unsteadily when she has to stand. She doesn't like most other ferrets, but loves her friend Miso. We want the pair to stay together.

Emma: One of the group that came to us from a poor situation. The women who had the animals was giving them food, but no water! They were very lucky to have been found alive, and the animal control officer is a real hero for making sure they all found safe havens. Emma also has mobility problems, but not as bad as Sylvie's. We thought she had an internal tumor and had exploratory surgery performed, but it turned out to be adipose tissue (FAT!). She DOES, however, have a heart murmur that the vet feels is causing a general weakness. But she is sweet, playful, and has a lot of love & love in her for the right caretaker.

Ferret Treasures Store Sale

Saturday & Sunday, December 11 & 12.

Hours: noon to 3 pm

14 Sherbrooke Avenue, Hartford, CT
06106

Local readers, please don't forget the

semi-annual Ferret Treasures store sale this weekend! It's the best place to find that special gift for the ferret in your life or a dedicated ferret lover. The **dental scaling** will go on as promised on Saturday. However, due to inadequate response, we canceled the ferret massage that was set for Sunday. If you'd wanted one and didn't RSVP, you have only yourself to blame! The cost for the dental cleaning is \$25 per ferret. A thorough ear cleaning/nail clip is \$10 per ferret. While you're here, be sure to visit the shelter! [E-mail](#) if you need directions.

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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