

## Ferret Paw Print June 2014 Issue #34



### Will New York City Lift the Ban on Ferrets?

Animal advocates in New York were taken by surprise when a petition from a young woman to rescind the city's ban on ferrets was introduced to the Department of Health – and found a willing ear. While Mayor DiBlasio himself has been noncommittal on the issue, that the Health Department is planning to put forth new ferret regulations is wonderfully promising – IF done wisely.

In case you're unaware, the 5 boroughs comprising Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn, Staten Island and the Bronx, have banned ferrets since the mid-80's. Back then, there was no approved rabies vaccine for ferrets. Mayor Rudy Guliani had a famous radio argument with David Guthartz, a longtime ferret advocate from Long Island, about ferrets which haunts the former mayor to this day.

Of course, there are ferrets in the City. They are freely sold elsewhere in New York state for anyone who truly wanted one, and the NYPD has been refreshingly blasé when they were sighted. NYC police have better things to do than try to confiscate 4-legged weasels! They (sensibly!) seem to believe the 2-legged kind is more their concern.

Of course, the prospect of opening the New York City to ferret sales has pet stores and companies like Marshall Farms salivating. However, groups like the ASPCA and the Humane Society of the US – and FACT! – are worried about the potential for a sales spree. Similar to what occurred when Massachusetts legalized ferrets, buyers ill-prepared for ferret care or simply disenchanted when their novelty wore off led to significant numbers of abandoned ferrets a year or so later. This would be worse: given the huge population of New York, it has the potential to cause serious problems for city shelters, who already deal with an overpopulation of dogs, cats, and rabbits. The shelters will have to deal with the consequences, while the sellers will have profited with no thought or provision for the future welfare of the animals they sold.

We at FACT are watching these developments very carefully. Once regulations have been proposed, there will be a public comment period where anyone can voice their opinion. There will also be a public hearing where people can testify in person. We will be notifying all our readers when these become scheduled; if you are a NYC resident or willing to travel to the city to offer testimony, PLEASE send us your name, e-mail and phone so we can maintain an Alert list.

### Help Out at No Cost to You!



Amazon is doing a special promotion through its Amazon Smiles donation program. Any purchase eligible for the regular .5% Smiles donation will earn your designated charity (us, we hope!) an extra \$5. This offer is good through June 15 ONLY. So put together your little list of things you've been meaning to order, go to Smile.Amazon.com, chose Ferret Association of CT as your designated charity, and make sure at least one is an Amazon Smile item. (When you click on any item, "Eligible for amazon smile" shows below the price and in-stock notice.) You'll earn the ferrets \$5 at no cost to you! Click here to get started: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/06-1386567>

### Ferret Medical Emergency Tips



That way as soon as we have further information, we can let you know.

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### Adoptable Ferrets



Cara is a little sable girl who was found outside. She was sooo thin when she arrived! But now she's put on weight and is cute and happy. Sweet-natured, she would love a home with another laid-back ferret or two to cuddle with! [Contact us!](#)

FACT Executive Director, Vanessa Gruden, writes Q & A's for [smallanimalchannel.com](http://smallanimalchannel.com) as the current ferret behavior specialist. Her article has just been published at [smallanimalchannel.com](http://smallanimalchannel.com). It contains things you can do to prepare the emergency vet to care for your ferret. The direct link is: <http://www.smallanimalchannel.com/critter-experts/ferret/help-your-veterinarian-to-help-your-ferret-1406.aspx>

### Shelter Wish List

It's summer and ferrets are looking for homes! You can make a difference by adopting your new best furry buddy. Our summer wish is to have an empty shelter!

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