

Sunday, March 01, 2015

Mary Travis Bassett, MD, MPH
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposal Rules

Dear Commissioner Bassett and fellow Commissioners:

I am writing to support amendments to the above articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

Domestic ferrets are friendly, quiet, non-destructive pets well suited to city living. There are no feral populations of domestic ferrets in any of the 47 states where they are allowed, including the parts of New York outside the five boroughs. Ferrets require a similar level of care as a dog or cat and since they are different than either, should have an educated owner. Any animal injured or frightened may bite, however a gently handled, properly trained, well cared for ferret does not. Due to their small size, the chance of a ferret causing significant harm to a human is minute.

I urge the City to not allow sales of ferrets in commercial pet stores. The resulting “fad” or impulse purchases will only further burden the city and local animal shelters. Instead, I recommend the humane alternative of only allowing ferrets to be adopted through nonprofit organizations.

Please allow those who love these happy little comedians of the animal world to bring laughter and joy to the people of New York City. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Glen Farney

President, Board of Directors
Ferret Association of Connecticut, Inc