



NYC Rules

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Public comments for: [Animals \(Article 161\) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions \(Article 11\)](#)

Comments

Shannon Gilman

Comment:

I am writing to request lifting the ban on ferrets in NYC. Ferrets are loving & fun little pets. They would be do fine in an apartment setting as they are small and sleep almost 20hrs a day. In the short amount of time i been a ferret owner, they have brought me so much. Also board member & volunteer at local CT ferret shelter. Being a responsible owner includes taking care of your pet no matter what kind of domesticated pet. If proper steps are taken: (1) To prevent impulse buying, don't allow the purchase of ferrets in pet stores. Instead, have prospective owners adopt from rescue/humane organizations where they can be provided with the proper education and be screened for suitability. (2) Spaying and neutering are important for the health of the ferret and to prevent overpopulation. (3) Rabies vaccines and Distemper vaccines. When they become available, will prevent overpopulation and diseases.

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Tara Smith

Comment:

I'm probably what most people would consider a "new" ferret owner. (I've only worked with and owned ferrets for five years.) But these curious, energetic, little clowns have stolen my heart. It's hard to have a bad day with these little guys around. Watching them run, tumble, bounce and wrestle with each other or a toy, can bring a smile to even the grumpiest face. When people ask why I like ferrets so much, this is what I tell them. Besides being cute and cuddly, Ferrets are: 1) great apartment pets. They are small -- rarely larger than 26 inches and 5

pounds -- quiet, and easy to train. Like cats, ferrets can use a litter box and groom themselves. There is seldom need for a bath. 2) very intelligent and easy to train. They can learn commands such as " come" ,"follow" , "let's go" . Tricks like "roll-over"," beg" , " jump " (through a hoop), " tunnel" and "weave" (winding through poles) can be mastered with a few treats. My little LeiDee Bug has mastered several tricks and enjoys entertaining people. 3) can be trained as therapy pets.Ferrets are very social and love attention. I'll never forget the looks on peoples faces when my boy Vlad walks into a room. Eyes light up, faces glow with smiles, conversations start. Even the hardest faces soften when they cuddle him. 4) keep you young -- in spirit at least. They are bubbly little animals full of energy. Their natural curiosity makes you see adventures in everyday things. 5) tend to get along well with cats and dogs. I can't imagine my life without these fur-babies.
Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Barbara Carlson

Comment:

I've owned ferrets in Pittsburgh, PA for over 25 years and have run a ferret club for 18 years and a shelter for 12 years. There are over 250 people on our ferret mailing list (who own an average of 3 ferrets each) living in the Pittsburgh area and we've been just fine. Ferrets are legal in large cities all across the United States and they have no problems. Ferrets are domesticated pets just like cats and dogs, but without many of the issues that come with cats and dogs. Ferrets are ideal pets for city living -- they're small, don't bark, and are just fine while the owner is at work. They sleep for about 18 hours a day, and do not require a large space for exercise. I urge New York City to join the 21st Century and allow ferrets as pets.

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Tina Hernandez

Comment:

Article 161 Folks all over the US are watching this. We want ferrets to live safely and without fear of confiscation everywhere. They are great pets and have gentle souls. They do not attack people as Dogs do . Ferrets have become a very popular pet and there here to stay with our with out laws to protect them and give they the same rights as our pet dogs and cats, When they get sick it should be there right to be able to get vet care with out the worry of being out laws in the USA They bring a lot of tax revenue on many thing they need , I have had 13 ferrets and will never be with this Loving Pet in my life. I do not live in NYC and If I did would have to move away for this reason. Ferrets Make Me Very Happy . We are many friends in the Ferret world and here to stay . Thanks and please care about our pet ferrets . Posted for my Brutis Ferret and many more ferrets

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Karen Lamb

Comment:

As a ferret rescue organization owner/operator and having kept ferrets for nearly 20 years, I fully support the proposed amended Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City. As a nonprofit ferret rescue organization, our mission is to promote the well-being of the domestic ferret. In addition to providing shelter and veterinary care for unwanted ferrets, we actively support initiatives to educate the public on such misinformation as the domesticated ferret (*mustelidae putorius furo*) is a wild, dangerous animal. This is grossly inaccurate, as they pose no more risk to humans than other domesticated animals that are kept as pets, to include dogs and cats. Key to the safety of humans is the proper humane care for the animals, and the appropriate medical care, such as the rabies vaccination. We further support the restriction of commercial sales of ferrets, as often these animals are sold by individuals who may inadvertently contribute to misinformation (or lack of information) when interest is focused on monetary gain, rather than the welfare of the animal. Through adequate screening and education prior to pet ferret placement, much of this misinformation can be not only prevented but eliminated. Ferrets are amazingly enjoyable pets that bring similar human companionship and affection as experienced with dogs and cats. We are encouraged to learn that New York City is considering the legalization of domesticated ferret, and support all movements in this direction. Let's enable the residents of New York City to enjoy the same liberties and benefits of ferret ownership, as enjoyed throughout the rest of the state, and nearly all others. Let's make this a reality! Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Karen Lamb, Nirvana Ridge Ferret Rescue, Brandy Station, VA.

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Laurie Schubert

Comment:

I believe that New York City should make ferrets legal as they make great pets for people....they are legal all over the country, and are less dangerous than dogs and have been domesticated almost as long. It would be wise to not allow pet stores to sell them as people pick them up as 'impulse buys' and then they end up in shelters, but people can get them from ferret breeders who make sure that a person knows what they are getting and how to take care of them properly. Please make ferrets legal to own in New York City.

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Helene Raacke

Comment:

Dear Sirs/ Madams, I would like to strongly urge you to support the amendment 161.01(b)(4) to legalize Ferrets in NYC. I have owned Ferrets since 1985. My husband and I are both professionals who are fans of these silly, clean little animals. We are by no stretch of the imagination "fringe" but we are both allergic to cats. We own Dogs and have not had any problems with mixing Ferrets and Dogs. Ferrets are individuals who are to a one curious and full of life. They bond with each other by choice and they form tight bonds with us as their owners. Too many small animals are impulse buys and our shelters are filled with animals of all types. I believe the first step to introducing ferrets to this area would be to utilize Shelters as the primary stock source. Shelters will educate and support new owners over the course of the animal's life span. I find them to be invaluable when I have care questions. Due to their small size, many people

who purchase Ferrets in pet stores are lead to believe that these are "caged" pets. These are not animals that can live full time in a cage. One would not do so to a kitten and expect it grow up to be a well socialized and loving cat. The best regulations would prevent pet stores from selling these animals unless stringent rules were applied: excellent nutritional and behavioral education to new owners, prevent overstocking at the store and a formal plan on handling unsold or sick stock. I support ensuring sterilization and de-scenting Ferrets. Ferrets may have health issues that require professional care and of course they require immunizations. By legalizing ferrets, you would be allowing current owners to access veterinarian care without fear of confiscation. Please legalize Ferrets in New York City in a thoughtful way. Sincerely, Helene Raacke
Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Eleanor Mead

Comment:

I have owned ferrets since they were made legal in MA and all I can say, is, I have owned many pets and ferrets are one of the BEST pets anyone could own! People against ferrets NEED to be educated and spend a day at a ferret shelter to learn about them and see they are all about enjoying life and having a good time! People ONLY hear the bad things in the news, never the good stuff! They are superb apartment pets and just require people to be responsible and smart when it comes to owning any pet! Little dogs will bite and are known for it, yet they are allowed, so NOT fair! Please, take the time to go visit a ferret shelter and see what a ferret is REALLY all about!!!

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Robin Cornell

Comment:

I have had ferrets as pets for 16 years. I could not imagine my life without my ferrets. Their little faces are so beautiful to me. I look forward to going home every day from work so I can be with my ferrets. Ferrets are an ideal pet for an apartment dweller. They are small, clean and quiet. They sleep a lot too, but are active for short periods of time when like to play and wrestle with each other. It's OK to keep them in a cage while they're sleeping. I keep all kinds of hammocks and sleepy sacks in my ferrets' cages, so they like spending time there and feel safe. I do not think there is any logical reason to ban ferrets as pets. I do agree that pet stores should not be allowed to sell ferrets since they contribute to the problem of people impulsively buying pets they later decide they don't wish to keep. There are far too many unwanted pets already. Ferrets should also be spayed/neutered so they can't breed.

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

suzanne beck

Comment:

Please allow spayed and neutered ferrets to live openly and please do not allow pet stores to sell them

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

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