



NYC Rules

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

Comments

Kelly Discher

Comment:

Hello, my name is Kelly Discher, and I would like to take this moment to appeal to you in considering lifting the ban on pet ferrets in New York City. Having had 6 ferrets over the last 15 years (and been godmother to 3 more), I can say with total certainty that they are the best of pets! Not only are they highly intelligent, but they also are very playful, fun, and form intense bonds with their owners and cagemates. I feel that allowing pet ferrets within the city should be allowed, assuming the ferret be spayed/neutered, and vaccinated for rabies, NOT ONLY for the safety and well-being of the people, but also for the animal itself. In addition, ferrets have very specific dietary, health, and care needs, so I agree that pet stores should NOT be allowed to sell pet ferrets, so as to avoid fad purchases and decrease the chance of the ferret being abused or abandoned. Personally, I would rather have a ferret than a conventional pet, as they couple the intelligence of a cat with the loyalty and playfulness of a dog, but all wrapped up in a package that rarely exceeds 3 pounds. So, thank you for considering my words, and I hope that soon I will see that the denizens of New York City can join me in enjoying the fuzzy joy they call "ferrets".

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Lisa Parrish

Comment:

Please overturn the ban on ferrets in NYC! Yes, all pet ferrets should be spayed/neutered. Yes, you should ban pet store sales of ferrets as it encourages impulse buying by uniformed animal owners. Yes, responsible NYC citizens should be able to own these wonderful

animals. I've had ferrets for 8 years; they are the most loving, intelligent, fun pets ever. They are sweet, and trainable. Unfortunately there are always bad pet guardians, but please don't continue to punish the majority of responsible pet parents who want to love and care for these amazing and cute critters. Ferrets are not a danger to anyone. They just want love. They really are the most playful pets ever.

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Lorie Adams

Comment:

The Department of Health should allow spayed/ neutered ferrets. Over the last 15 years, I have owned and fostered 6 ferrets. They make wonderful household pets. They are friendly, gentle and endearing. If you have a pair of ferrets one does not need TV, because ferrets will amuse you to distraction! Ferrets need more care than a cat, but less than a dog. They are smart, and are easy to teach and train. They get along well with other friendly family pets. I also believe they should not be sold in pet stores, but adopted through shelters or rescue centers. A ferret should not be an impulse purchase, they are sensitive loving critters, they need gentle handling and loving attention. They need to be protected from hazards in the home, they are very inquisitive and given the opportunity, will get into things they shouldn't. It's kind of like having a two year old child running loose. Ferrets should not be confine to a cage 24/7, but let out to explore with supervision. They love to be outside, but only by leash and harness. Ferrets are wonderful company and should be permitted to have a loving, caring private home!

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Rebecca Leon

Comment:

Years ago I owned a ferret. Had him for many years. I don't see anything wrong with ferrets being kept as pets, provided the owner has done their research and knows how to care for one. NYC should definitely lift the ban on domestic ferrets. If you can own a dog or a cat in the city, and various other types of animals as pets, like chinchillas, then why ban ferrets? People can be so ignorant, but it's a simple matter of just now knowing. Lift the ban. Let these furry little adorable creatures find homes in NY.

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Laureta Anderson

Comment:

I strongly urge the Board of Health to amend Article 161 to remove spayed or neutered ferrets from the list of animals prohibited as pets. I also urge that pet stores not be allowed to sell ferrets. The purchase of any pet should be a considered, not impulse, decision. I was the owner of a neutered ferret, purchased on impulse by my son. My son gave the ferret to me when he was less

than one year of age and I cared for him until his death from old age at age 7. He was a delightful pet, got along with our 3 cats and added much joy to our lives.

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Tina Pence

Comment:

I am an Indiana resident, though I have traveled to New York City in the past. When making travel plans or deciding on residency, I also inquire as to whether or not ferrets are allowed, you see my ferrets travel with me, if ferrets are now allowed, I have to stay in a different area so that I am in compliance with the law. I have owned ferrets since early 2001. Our first couple of ferrets were actually pets of my daughters (she was 10 at the time we acquired our first ferret). Ferrets are terrific companion pets, I have stated in the past to friends, that a ferret is the best parts of cats, dogs and other small animals. For instance, you can litter box train a ferret (similar to a cat). You can teach a ferret tricks and they will follow you around (similar to a dog). When they are sleeping - up to 18 hours a day - you can cage your ferret (similar to a hamster or gerbil). You see they really are the best pet! A spayed/neutered ferret in a loving home brings much enjoyment. They are terrific for smaller spaced apartments and truly are docile and good with children. Thank you for your consideration.

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Michelle Hay

Comment:

As a ferret owner for 15 years, I can not stress enough how important spaying/neutering is to this specific animal breed. These are highly intelligent and wonderful creatures that need well educated and caring families to land in. Ferrets are extremely tempting for "fad" purchases as they are so engaging. As a result, thousands of ferrets yearly are abandoned and end up in specialized shelters. All of my ferrets have been adopted and all have experienced some form of trauma from their previous owners. This is not done out of cruelty (mostly) but done out of ignorance. There is a general lack of knowledge regarding how much work these animals are to take care of. They require a substantial amount of interaction which is completely different than that of a guinea pig, however, many new pet owners don't know the difference. And teenager pet store clerks are hardly the best teachers to pass on that information. Save these wonderful creatures for an unhappy fare by passing the two best rules for their welfare. Spay / neutering and get them out of pet stores. Period.

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Tillie Morse

Comment:

Department of Health, PLEASE allow spayed/neutered ferrets in NYC. I do think that it would be best if ferrets are not sold in pet stores to

avoid fad, impulse purchases and subsequent abandonment. I have owned ferrets for many years and they make wonderful pets. Not for everyone as they are high maintenance and need time out of their cages and playtime every day. Fun, intelligent wonderful little animals.

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Andrea Drossel-Shea

Comment:

RE: Animals Article 161 and Reportable Diseases and Conditions Article 11 Proposed rules/Ferrets Dear Commissioners: I want 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. I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs. pet store personnel, especially in chain stores do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them properly. My husband and I have had 10 very individual ferrets as pets for over the span of the past 19 years. We have been blessed with their fun loving antics and considered them all a part of our family. Thank you Andrea Drossel-Shea Tel # 860 623-8592 (home)

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Della Farney

Comment:

Dear Commissioner Bassett: I am a licensed veterinarian with the state of Connecticut. I have treated domestic ferrets my entire career and believe they are wonderful companion animals when the owners are educated about their care and needs. I also have personally owned ferrets for over 25 years. I support allowing spayed and neutered ferrets in New York City, and support the annual rabies vaccination requirement. I do not support the sale of ferrets in pet stores. Store clerks do not adequately explain to prospective owners a ferret's specific needs, habits, and proper veterinary care. Ferrets are not guinea pigs or hamsters and as such should not be caged 24 hours a day. They are a pet comparable to cats in their intelligence and dietary needs (obligate meat eater) and dogs for their social needs (needing others to play and interact with daily). They require yearly vaccinations (rabies and canine distemper) and yearly examinations with a veterinarian. I recommend that ferrets only be sold or adopted with a valid rabies vaccination not given before 12 weeks of age and age-appropriate canine distemper vaccinations, both of which are only effective for 1 year. Vaccinating ferrets not only protect the human population against rabies but also dogs from canine distemper exposure. Please contact me if you have any questions. Sincerely, Della Farney, DVM

Supporting Document:

 [vetletter.doc](#)

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

