



# NYC Rules

[Advanced Search](#)[SET TEXT SIZE:](#)[TRANSLATE THIS PAGE](#)[PRINTER FRIENDLY](#)[NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP](#)[LOGIN](#) | [REGISTER](#)

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

### Comments

Dr. Wilfredo Ba...

Comment:

I have specialized in the care of ferrets for well over 20 years, working very closely with FACT-The Ferret Association of Connecticut. I care deeply about ferret welfare and fully support the amendment to legalize ferrets. With ferrets, there is no harm with them being present. There is no reason for them not to be legal, and there are plenty reasons for them to be legal in terms of the companionship they provide. Ferrets do not cause more of health risk than the domestic dog or cat. And in my many years of experience, ferret owners are extremely passionate about their ferret companions and will go to any length to provide the best medical care available.

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Katy Moore

Comment:

I fully support the legalization of ferrets in New York City, and appreciate the opportunity to support ferret owners by explaining why I feel this action is reasonable and justified. In reference to ferrets, I feel there is no factual basis for the current NYC Health Code §161.01, which states "wild animals are deemed to be any animals which are naturally inclined to do harm and capable of inflicting harm up on human beings." As current research indicates, and many veterinarians with professional expertise in small animals have confirmed, ferrets are not naturally inclined toward violent behavior. As with any domesticated animal, ferrets who are properly cared for do not exhibit violent tendencies. While it is true that kits are prone to nipping - just as any puppy or kitten (or human child) nips and bites while learning about

their environment and how to behave, and most likely also attempting to expel excessive energy - if treated humanely, kits quickly grow into calmer adult ferrets and retire those nipping urges. Furthermore, the classification of ferrets as wild animals is unfounded - ferrets are fully domesticated and typically cannot survive if left to their own devices in the wild. Additionally, to outlaw ownership of an animal that poses such little risk to human health and safety seems contradictory when many other animals that pose serious threats to humans, and have caused numerous deaths across the nation, are acceptable for ownership. Incidents of ferret violence are extremely isolated, and of the few that I have read about, all have been traced to severe neglect and/or abuse by the owners. Ferrets react no differently when scared or abused than a cat or dog might, and thus, should be given the same consideration when discussing their capacity for violence, as well as their status as a pet animal. Health and safety concerns aside, I would also like to say that as a 20-year ferret owner, they make truly wonderful, memorable pets. As a dog and cat owner as well, I feel that ferrets are in a league of their own as pet animals, and can offer a very rewarding relationship to a caring owner. They have unique personalities, and are unlike any other domesticated animal in terms of how they behave. Their appearance alone sets them apart, but they are also curious, highly entertaining, and seem skilled at being both as aloof as a cat and loving as a dog. The weasel war dance is truly a hilarious sight to behold, it just inspires instantaneous fondness of these silly creatures. I have loved ferrets since I was a child; because of their uniqueness, they hold a special place in my life that neither a cat or dog, nor any other small animal, can replace. I would want anyone who desires to have a ferret as a companion animal to have that opportunity, as well. I hope that for these reasons and more, the representatives of New York City will consider adding ferrets to the list of beloved, legal pet animals. Good luck, ferrets of NYC.

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Kevin Matsil

Comment:

My name is Kevin Matsil and I am a Science Teacher in Meriden, Ct.. I have made it my business to rescue ferrets in and around my community for 20 years. I have taught my students how to care for all animals they want to own. Ferrets by far are one the most desired pets by children AND the first to be abandoned by their parents. They see an animal in the pet store that is playful ,cute and loving: it doesn't take long before their needs and care become too much and they are abandon. I have rescued 13 ferrets and have had to endure the pain of several more that didn't survive. Please do NOT allow the sale of ferrets in pet stores or allow ferrets that haven't been altered live in NYC. Pet stores promote their sale without giving the public enough information as to how much care they require. Think of how many dogs and cats suffer at the hands of puppy mills and the number of households that treat a living animal like a toy that loses the interest of a child after the newness fades. We don't need to add another one of God's creatures to suffer the same fate. Respectfully yours, Kevin Matsil 36 knollfield Road Meriden, Ct 06450-7121

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Hyomyung Kim

Comment:

Ferret ownership in NYC should be legalized that they are not harmful as dogs and cats are not. They sleep for about 18 hrs a day n

not making noisy. They are also a small type of animal which perfectly fits as city pets.

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Ashley Murray

Comment:

I am an RN from Las Vegas and have had my two babies for about a year and a half and they have been the greatest companions for me and also get along well with the younger ones in my family, ages 2 and 6. I would like to move to New York but am limited due to this ban. It would great to be able to experience your wonderful city and be able to take care of my pets and keep them healthy just as am I able to do in most other cities. I love them so much and would not move without them, needless to say, I take good care of them and they are always up to date on their vaccines. Please don't take NYC off my list of possible places to move to and enjoy. It has been my lifelong dream, so this can only show how much my little guys mean to me that this ban is holding me back.

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Stephen Jones

Comment:

Ferrets are simply babies with fur. They are so sweet, so playful but they never grow up. Their lives are so short they put a lifetime of love into the 5-8 years of their expected lives. Their only mission is to give and receive love. With ferrets you can never have a bad day. These fur friends sleep 18-20 hours a day and even or should I say especially while they sleep they are a joy to watch. No need for pet stores to sell ferrets as the little ones are available from ferret knowledgeable shelters. Shelter operators screen adoptive parents and are available to answer questions regarding care and health. Companion animals help relieve stress and studies show that people live longer when they have a pet. Ferrets are the most social of pets and will die without human contact. So all in all a win-win situation by providing a home for a ferret. Ferrets will change your life forever. I am in Florida and I hope NYC will lift the ban so you can all experience the joy of ferrets.

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Jasmine Edwards

Comment:

Ferret ownership in NYC should ABSOLUTELY be legalized. I am an Indiana resident and I have 7 ferrets. They are not dirty animals nor are they "wild". Actually cats are mammals who are more closely related to their wild relatives than are domesticated ferrets. It isn't like NYC residents would be owning polecats, mink, or stoats. My ferrets are very tame and clean. They are very playful, they eat a dry kibble, and act just as any playful. You really are doing a disservice to your residents refusing to allow them the

joy of owning a ferret. Please reconsider. I don't know anyone living in New York but I know how much I love my ferrets and I would love to see any responsible pet owner to have the same experience if they so choose.

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Dylan Cooper

Comment:

I have been a ferret owner for over 20 years and I fully support their legalization in NYC. I've always viewed the fact that they were banned in the first place to be an embarrassing case of ignorance and complete disregard of readily available information. Ferrets do make wonderful pets and the case against them is far-fetched at best. New York is one of the most amazing, progressive, and diverse cities in the world. It's time to lift this ridiculous ban that never should have been placed in the first place.

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

s jones

Comment:

Our family has adopted more than three dozen ferrets from our local shelter over these many years, each little one a precious addition to our lives. Ferrets are soft and cuddly and affectionate and just awesome, playful little love bugs. Each is different, all are wonderful. Gentle little souls, they play and snuggle and dance for joy creating smiles and laughter all their days. Very intelligent and responsive, they give so much love to us. It's vital to work closely with an exotic animal vet and educate yourself. Ferrets should be legal to acquire but not sold at pet stores.

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

D Dix

Comment:

I have had ferrets for over 15 years and for anyone to say that they are wild animals has never owned or been near a ferret. Ferrets are loveable animals who want nothing more than to play with their owners and sleep and be loved. They are the ideal pet for me and I don't know what it would be like to not have one in my life or my home. People should get to know ferrets before making any judgment on their temperament or how they live. A little knowledge can go a long way to knowing an animal as special as a ferret.

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

