



NYC Rules

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

Comments

Sarah Vesser

Comment:

Please reconsider your ban on ferrets in New York City. Ferrets are loving, sweet-tempered animals with a curious disposition and they make wonderful pets. They are no more dangerous than any dog, cat, or bird, as long as they have been trained appropriately and loved unconditionally. As with any creature, care must be taken at all times, but I have never had a ferret who was anything other than fun to be around! They are quiet, making them an excellent pet for apartment dwellers, and can be walked in harness as easily as dogs and cats. A ban on ferrets simply makes it more difficult for those who love these precious little animals and on the animal's health.

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Kandi Kopel

Comment:

Ferrets are wonderful animals and pose no greater threat to human health and wellness than cats and dogs. I support amending the law to allow people to keep ferrets as pets.

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

gwen kaiser

Comment:

yes please make ferrets a legal pet in nyc. they happen to make an ideal city dwelling pet with their natural sleep habits...they are friendly, and personable... like a cross between dogs and rats if i were to make a comparison.... i would only add one addendum to this law passing and that is to ban the sale of them in nyc--especially in pet shops. once the pet shops catch wind of ferrets being legal they will start selling them. and they--along with so many pets--will end up being surrendered to the ac&c. and we don't need ferrets taking up valuable cage space. there are plenty of ferrets available for adoption and no need to purchase them from a pet store. so please understand that this law is written very well except it needs to make the sale of ferrets in nyc illegal. adopting is fine--shopping is not. the last thing nyc needs is a ferret overpopulation problem and even with the mandatory sterilizing of all ferrets-- when pet shops are involved that will be difficult to enforce. great law--just make that addition and it's good to go! vive la ferret nyc!!

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Jane L. Schweitzer

Comment:

I have been a ferret owner for over 32 years and feel that it is time for the City to accept these creatures. NYC is a perfect place for ferrets to live because they are a perfect apartment pet. They require a cage, litter box and owners to play with at any time. In addition they are not able to survive in our cold Northeastern climate. So this ferret owner from Ohio, recommends adopting legalization of ferrets in NYC.

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Cathryn Meurn

Comment:

I was born and raised in New York - I'm now a NY transplant in the city of Washington DC, working for a California company - which is funny since NYC, DC, and CA are the only three that don't allow ferrets. With ties to all three this remains an issue that I am concerned with. I own a ferret, who I've had for the past three years. I didn't originally want him, it was a remainder of a past relationship - but my word how he has changed my life for the better. I love pets, and this one is one of the easiest, cleanest and best I've ever had. He's litter boxed trained, never bites, and sleeps about 20 hours a day. Living in and near a city, these animals are by far the best pet for a small apartment. Additionally, the ferret community has become an extended family - they all provide support and advice, and it's obvious that research on ferrets have come a long way. The information that DC, NYC, and CA are operating off of is old, out-dated and just plain wrong. I contemplated moving back to NYC when I graduated from my master's program, but the thought of choosing between a life in the city I love, and a pet that I adore - the choice became clear. I hope this gets repealed because it is my wish to see DC and CA follow suit.

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

amanda vinci

Comment:

I care deeply about ferret welfare, especially in a large city such as New York. I am the owner of one ferret for the past 3 and a half years. He's been a wonderful addition to my life and my family. I suffer with various chronic pain conditions, and truly believe that my ferret has helped me to cope with my suffering. Ferrets are intelligent, complex and attentive little creatures. They are commonly misunderstood, and taken on by owners who don't know how to care for them properly. This is why I would like to see the continued restriction of the sale of ferrets in pet shops within the city. Impulse buys could lead to the abandonment or mistreatment of ferrets, causing shelters to become burdened with the intake of new ferrets. I would absolutely love for ferrets to be legal to own within the 5 boroughs, I would love to be able to share my love of Sneaky Weasel with others without feeling at risk of losing him. 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. Thank you for allowing this to be brought to the attention of the state.

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

julie palmieri

Comment:

I have had the pleasure of having several ferrets over the last 9 years. I strongly believe they should not be sold in pet stores for they sell them to anybody and most of those people are not educated on ferret care. These are the best little animals being loving, fun and inspirational. I believe it would be in no way harmful for the city of New York

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Daniel Young

Comment:

I fully support the proposed amendment to allow ferrets as pets throughout the city. I grew up in Suffolk county, where my family had several ferrets throughout my childhood. Their small size and friendly temperament make them ideal pets. They pose no more threat to humans than dogs or cats. They sadly can not survive long in the wild. Even if they could, I'd feel infinitely safer being confronted by a stray ferret in some dark city alley than a loose dog. I have always found it bizarrely arbitrary to sell ferrets throughout the suburbs of Long Island, while completely banning their presence just a few miles to the west. Thank you for giving this matter the serious consideration it deserves.

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

L. Vanessa Gruden

Comment:

As Executive Director of the Ferret Association of Connecticut, a nonprofit educational/humane organization focused on the welfare of domestic ferrets, I wish to endorse rescinding their ban. Ferrets are smart, friendly, interactive animals, quiet, not destructive, and with a wonderful joie de vie. Ferrets should be altered to avoid breeders and because their reproductive hormones cause a strong seasonal odor. Ferrets do NOT need to be descented; once males are neutered, strong odors disappear. While undescented ferrets can “spray” when frightened or injured, it lasts minutes. Ferrets cannot cause significant injury to older children or adults. Ferrets weigh between 1-3 pounds. Similar to how many humane organizations discourage families with very young children adopt kittens, we also discourage ferrets in homes with children under 5 – more from fear of injury to the animal. There are no feral ferrets anywhere in the 47 states – including the remainder of New York State – where they are legal. Ferrets are SO domestic that they rarely survive outdoors for over a week. We HIGHLY recommend requiring ferrets be vaccinated for rabies before they are sold/adopted to protect public health. There are no studies on the period antibodies transferred from maternal milk remain effective. In puppies and kittens, maternal vaccine efficacy decreases within weeks. CDC guidelines state that ferrets cannot receive a rabies vaccination until they are 12 weeks old. A health issue affecting both ferrets and dogs is canine distemper. Full protection requires a ferret receive a 3 vaccination series, beginning at 8 weeks old. Older ferrets with an unknown vaccination history should receive a series of 2 shots. We also recommend ferrets receive the appropriate series before placement. I have personally accepted 1,700 ferrets in the Ferret Association shelter. When asked about vaccination status, 99% of owners respond: “The pet store told me it had all its shots.” People are not informed of the need for further annual vaccinations. This is not the only misinformation perpetrated by pet stores. Our STRONG recommendation would be to only allow adoption via a nonprofit organization. The pet industry wants to see ferrets sold indiscriminately. Corporations will profit and give back little to shelters or animal control forced to face the fallout. Should the industry wish to provide ferrets, perhaps they’d consider allowing the adoption of ferrets culled from breeding operations. Having cared for poorly handled, rescued breeding ferrets, I can attest that once altered, they invariably become delightful pets, truly deserving of a loving home. In conclusion, the City has a wonderful opportunity to learn from the mistakes of other municipalities and create smart, humane rules that protect the public and benefit these charming little companion pets. Allowing ferrets back into the City is the first step: Please take it.

Agency: [DOHMH](#)

Andy schulman

Comment:

As the owner of a grooming shop, I agree with Nancy's comments completely as they are spot on. The dogs have no direct contact with one another in the grooming area and therefore there is no risk of diseases being spread. The amount of time spent chasing down medical records is a time consuming burden on both the business and the customer. Periodically we have to turn away customers, which is unfair for all involved (the small business owner, the groomers who depend on these animals to make a living and the dogs who are refused service). I obtained 100 signatures from my clients who were all supportive of having this rule amended and agreed that their dogs were not in any danger of contracting any illnesses while getting groomed. I submitted these signatures to the department of health and several other city officials and have not gotten any reply.

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[« first](#) [‹ previous](#) ... [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) **9** [10](#) [next ›](#) [last »](#)