

Issue: March 2015 - NYC News, Fire at FACT, Does YOUR Fire Department Have Oxygen Masks for Ferrets?

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Well, the good news the ferrets are fine and I'm fine. The morning of January 21, a fire broke out in the attic of my home, where FACT is headquartered. The house has damage, but neither the ferrets nor I had to vacate, thankfully. The attic will need all the walls and ceiling redone along with updated wiring and probably a new roof, even though it was not burned through. It could have been far, far worse.

That was the day I was heading to New York to testify to their Department of Health to get the ban on ferrets overturned. My sister helped me upload my testimony and the 30 additional signed letters from people. Thank you to everyone who wrote, faxed, or made comments online! While every other proposed ruling had at most 3 comments, the one for ferrets had 90! Sadly, as you'll read below, neither those nor the 400 (!) reported letters received seemed to have had any effect on their ruling.

**L. Vanessa Gruden, Executive Director**

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## NYC Ferret Ban Upheld

On March 10, the NYC Department of Health held a public hearing and failed to approve rescinding the ferret ban. The vote was 3 commissioners in favor, 2 against, and 4 abstaining. To be approved, there needed to be 6 votes. Their "concerns" - ferrets getting loose in apartment buildings, the potential for "feral colonies," bites—had certainly been addressed in much of the testimony, raising the question if it was even read by some of the commissioners.

In a post, Isis Vera of the Ferret Club of New York said: "We are disappointed on the outcome of today's vote for lifting the ban. We were very optimistic with all the evidence that we had presented, that in would go in our favor. Many if not all the questions and concerns that the board raised today could have been easily answered by what we had presented back in January. "

According to reports in the Wall St. Journal, over 400 letters had been sent to the Department concerning the ruling, which they said were "overwhelmingly" supportive of lifting the ban. That would be in addition to the 90 public comments posted on the Dept. of Health website (not including our upload with 30 individual letters), of which only ONE was against.

FACT is deeply disappointed. Mayor DeBlasio entered office with a promise to listen to his constituents; it is disheartening that appointed commissioners do not seem to have a similar commitment to the people of New York. One early article by the New York Times quoted a commissioner as being tired of having to deal with "the ferret issue." Since they have chosen not to listen, they will simply have to deal with this issue again and again until common sense prevails. The Ferret Association of Connecticut congratulates the Ferret Club of New York City for their dedication and hard work to get this ruling passed, and will be there to help

## FACT Open House & Silent Auction - Sunday May 17, noon - 4 pm.

14 Sherbrooke Avenue,  
Hartford, CT

Due to the fire and the construction disruption, FACT's Board has decided not to hold Ferretopia this spring. Instead, we will hold a simpler-to-organize Open House here at the shelter. We are asking Tamara of Concerned Ferret Owners to come & perform low cost dental scrapings, and would like to also hold a canine distemper vaccine clinic. Of course, the Ferret Treasures store will be open for purchases, and we will also be holding a Silent Auction, which is always one of the most popular events at Ferretopia. So folks don't have to stay all afternoon, items will be auctioned off at set periods. Please watch for more detailed information! Ferretopia is our biggest spring fundraiser, which helps us care for ferrets all through the summer, so please come!

## Featured Adoptee:



## Oxygen Masks for Pets

Part of fire safety for YOUR home includes making sure your local fire department has the appropriate mask to help your pets if they suffer smoke inhalation. Smoke inhalation is the biggest killer of pets (and people!) in fires. Estimates are that 150,000 pets die because of fires every year.

There are a couple ways to obtain oxygen masks for your local fire department.

**Free!** The Canine Company is the maker of Invisible Fence and their program, Project Breathe, will donate a set of masks, in 3 different sizes, to fire departments in the Northeast, New Jersey, and southern New York. The kit includes a small, medium, and large mask in a carrying case. Their goal is to ensure every fire department and emergency rescue service has masks available. There are two ways to make sure your local department has a set on hand: Give this information to your local fire chief and they can simply e-mail their request to: [marketing@caninecompany.com](mailto:marketing@caninecompany.com). Or YOU can request one for your local fire station. Just e-mail the same address with your station's name & address. They ask that info on recipients and success stories be shared on social media; that's a pretty small price to pay to ensure your pets are safe!

**For Sale:** Don't live in the Northeast? Another site has kits available for purchase. Fire department personnel or individuals or groups who would like to donate them to their fire department can easily order at [www.petoxygenmasks.org](http://www.petoxygenmasks.org) and have the sets delivered to themselves for presentation or direct to the department. Their price for one set is \$90.

**Cheaper option?** You can purchase an anesthesia mask plus tube through your vet or a veterinary supply house – you just have to make sure the connector tubes will fit the fire station's EXISTING oxygen tank. Ask at the fire station what equipment they have and the tube gauge. Vet supply houses sell anesthesia masks separately – one advantage is you can get exactly the size you need for ferrets, which is the small (3.5") feline mask. The big difference between the ones sold specifically as pet oxygen masks are that they have vents – the green nobby things shown in the photo above. Anesthesia masks don't have vents, BUT neither do they fit as tightly around the muzzle, so air will vent there. A small feline mask costs less than \$30. Tubing is extra but inexpensive. Shown below is a veterinary anesthesia mask.



Oscar is just a sweetheart. This little sable fellow arrived in February, painfully thin. His owner was feeding him dog food, which educated ferret owners know has insufficient protein and fat for a ferret. Now nicely fattening up, 2 1/2 year old Oscar is the coveted "lap rat" so many people adore. While he likes other ferrets, he LOVES to snuggle on human laps. Interested? Visit our [website](#) for info and to download an adoption application.



## Featured Product: Hansa Ferret

We got a deal on these plush ferrets and are offering them to folks at a significant discount.

Hansa is manufacturer of high-end plush toys, hand-crafted and created in an environmentally conscious manner. Their weasels and ferrets retail for \$50-\$60. This one is being closed out and won't be available once supplies are exhausted. He's big—at least 18" long. Our regular



\$5.50. If you want more than 1 shipped, drop me a note and I'll calculate combined postage costs. Just mail your check to FACT at 14 Sherbrooke Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106. You can pay via Paypal to [donation@ferretassn.org](mailto:donation@ferretassn.org).

**Donate Today**

**FerretAssn.Org**

**Our New Website!**

Including all new contact addresses. Come check it out!

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**Our mailing address is:**

14 Sherbrooke Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

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