

Issue: July, 2016 – Upcoming Shelter Forum, Signs of Ferret Pain, PawBoost for lost pets and more...



## Ferret Shelter Forum

**Saturday, August 27**

Are you a new or startup shelter? You don't have to be a ferret shelter! Any small shelter can learn and network. Held in Hartford, Connecticut, this day-long conference is focused on shelter operations.

### **Workshops include:**

Nonprofit Basics - Fundraising - Adoption Best Practices - How to Survive being a Home-Based Shelter.

### [Registration Link](#)

We have attendees coming from Florida, Chicago and as far away as Oregon. Locally, a specialty cat rescue and a parrot shelter are attending. Millie Sanders of Texas Ferret Lovers will be one of our workshop panelists. We'd love to have a couple more experienced panelists willing to discuss Adoption Best Practices and Surviving Being a Home-Based Shelter. Do you have great tips about how to screen adopters? Managing adopters, surrenders and volunteers in your house? Share your experiences!

Registration is continuing, however if you plan to participate remotely, we need you signed up at least two weeks in advance so we can plan the software test.

## **Ferret Pain**

How can you tell if your ferret is in pain? Here's a list of signs. It's not absolute, but was reviewed by 3 veterinarians for accuracy.

- Lack of appetite (many causes, but also generalized pain)
- Lack of normal activity (ditto)
- High or low body temperature (ditto)



### **We need a home!**

Desperately seeking a Foster home for two of three older ferrets. Sable Ferris is 4 ½ and albino Stuart is 3+. They are great with people and love their sister Zelda, who gets along with anyone, but the boys beat up the old and timid and are causing no end of trouble. That's the one big downside to not caging shelter ferrets; when you get a bully, everyone else suffers.

Under our [Foster](#) Ferret plan, both Ferris and Stuart's health care would be covered forever. Right now they have no health problems at all, but of course we can't promise something won't arise. Please [contact us](#) today if you have space in your home and your heart for these handsome fellows!

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- Dragging hind legs (could be low blood sugar, but also general weakness)
- Rapid short breaths or difficult breathing
- Biting (ferret that doesn't normally), especially if touched in a particular area
- Flinching from touch
- Arched back
- Squinting eyes
- "Grinding" teeth (often nausea)
- Tensed muscles
- Crying, whimpering, screaming
- Head tilted to one side (possible stroke)
- Limping or unwilling to rest on one foot (one foot or leg specifically injured)
- Straining to urinate/defecate (blockages are very painful)



Pawboost.com is a terrific website that can help reunite lost pets with their owners. When a lost pet is listed, an alert goes out to veterinarians, shelters and volunteers in the area. The best part is – whether you've lost or found an animal – it can be totally free to use.

Go to the site, list the pet and a photograph, the date and area, and you can print out a free poster that can be placed around the neighborhood. Then PawBoost will send an alert – they have nearly 35,000 contacts nationwide – and with luck, the pet will find its way home. (Hint: ferrets can look a lot like each other, so if you don't have a good recent photo, search online for a similar-looking, clear photo to copy.)

The alert goes out immediately, which is vital for finding little ferrets. They do have additional services, which you can purchase for a fee. Prices range from \$29.99 to \$99.99 and the notice will be pushed out to 500 to 15,000 local Facebook users via their newsfeed.

We can attest to PawBoost's value! We adopted Lola to an older gentleman in Manchester several months ago. Used to an older male, he was unaware a wily little girl would be over a baby gate in



## July 1 Grant Deadline!

Heads up! If you want to send a representative from your shelter to the Forum, July 1 is the deadline to apply for transportation financial aid!

These funds are offered specifically to help existing and startup shelters attend the Forum. It's a simple, 1 page application. You'll need to provide some basic information about your shelter and an estimate of the total travel costs, then how much money you need to help you attend. We also ask for a short paragraph describing why you want to attend and how you think it will benefit you and your work to help ferrets. Decisions will be made by July 15.

[Financial Aid Link](#)



## July 15 Petco Foundation Deadline!

Are you a shelter or a

a flash. A nice early May day, a patio, an easily-breached barrier, and Lola was gone.

He just assumed she was gone forever, as he lives next to a busy shopping center. When he contacted me, I immediately posted her to our Facebook page and to PawBoost, who regularly sends me (as a shelter) missing pet alerts.

Thanks to the PawBoost, someone who knew a white ferret had been turned into a nearby vet contacted us and scared owner was reunited with adventurous ferret. Happy ending!

So cut this out and keep it someplace in case YOUR wiggly weasel goes Missing in Action. Better yet, check with your vet and town animal control to make sure they are listed to get PawBoost alerts. Best? Sign up yourself as a volunteer spotter! You could be the contact that helps a lost pet get home.



**FerretAssn.Org**

**Donate Today**

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helping ferrets? The Petco Foundation's current grant program is for you.

You can apply for event sponsorship, a particular program, or just general funds to help your animals get adopted. You could ask for help funding a pet food pantry, for example, to pay vet bills for animals that arrive with health needs, or to help promote adoptions. Unlike years past, the Petco Foundation will now help fund salaries. If, for example, you're tech-challenged and hiring someone to post your animals online will help them get adopted, ask for help from the Foundation! Last year we received funding to provide rabies shots and ear mite medicine for all our adoptees.

[Petco Foundation Grant Instructions](#)

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