

Basic Ferret Care Sheet

Holding Your Pet Ferret: Wrap one hand beneath their ribs and with the other, support the hindquarters. An upset or angry ferret can be held for short periods by the scruff of the neck – learn this technique for grooming, too.



Cage & Accessories: Ferrets need a cage with no more than about 1” between bars. Newspaper flat on the floor is fine for litter. Some ferrets can be trained to litterboxes, too.

- Fabric pouches made of fleece or smooth fabric gives them a place to snuggle.
- Ferrets love hammocks.
- A 29” high metal, folding pet playpen will also hold ferrets and can be bought online.
- Make sure your ferret lives in temperatures 60-80 degrees – too hot and they can die of heatstroke.
- Be sure to clean the cage or playpen daily for your pet’s health.



Food: Ferrets are carnivores that need high-protein dry food. There are specific ferret foods sold in pet stores and online, but you can also use a quality kitten food.

EXCELLENT QUALITY

ACCEPTABLE

POOR QUALITY

NEVER!

- Food and water always be available. Ferrets are small and eat/drink every few hours.
- Stainless steel food/water bowls are best but heavy ceramic is OK. Water bottles can clog and are hard to clean. All dishes should be washed every day and old food bits thrown away.

Play Time: Ferrets are smart, active little animals. At least 4-5 hours out of cage every day keeps them healthy. Ferrets love playing with people!

- Good toys include ping-pong balls and baby toys.
- Ferrets love to play in tubes. 4" wide drainpipe from Home Depot is great!



Grooming: Ferrets need their nails clipped regularly. Scruff and use small clippers, about 1/8" away from pink area. Ears should be cleaned with ear cleaner & qtips. Use only pet shampoo and don't wash too often –usually if you keep their cage clean a ferret won't smell bad.



Vet Care: Ferret need shots every year. A checkup every year keeps your pet healthy.

- Canine Distemper: A dog virus that can kill your ferret; you can carry it inside.
- Rabies: Not a Connecticut law but having it protects you and your pets. Strongly recommended.
- Call local vets to make sure they carry both vaccines.
- Ask **how many** ferret clients they see; it's a good way to gauge their knowledge.
- Don't be afraid to ask for price; costs can vary a lot between hospitals.



For more information: Ferret Association: www.ferretassn.org

Facebook: Ferret Association of Connecticut, Inc.

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