



[Sign up for our](#)  [Email Newsletter](#)
[& Receive a Free](#)
[Health Ebook!](#)



[Click to join](#)
[AromatherapyOne-O-One](#)

The Wonderful



World of Ferrets

<http://www.natural-pet-care.com/natural-pet-health-blog/>

Copyright © 2008 by NaturalPetCare.com
All Rights Reserved.

Contents

- Part 1.....Why Do You Want A Ferret?
- Part 2.....General Ferret Information
- Part 3.....Feeding Ferrets
- Part 4.....Housing for Ferrets
- Part 5.....Ferret Hygiene
- Part 6.....Litter Training Your Ferret
- Part 7.....Understanding Your Ferret
- Part 8.....Playing With Your Ferret
- Part 9.....Keeping Your Ferret Safe
- Part 10.....Common Ferret Health Concerns
- Part 11.....Is It Legal to Own a Ferret?

Why Do You Want A Ferret?

So, you think you want to be the proud owner of a Ferret? It isn't any wonder. Ferrets are very popular as pets these days. In fact, of all of the possible pets out there in the world, Ferrets top the list at number three, after cats and dogs. Ferrets are cute, fast, and fun to watch. But they do require a great deal of care

The content of this ebook is intended for informational purposes only.

It is not intended to diagnose or treat any medical condition. Nothing in this ebook is intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always seek the advice of your veterinarian or other qualified health provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition.

Never disregard professional medical advice or delay in seeking it because of something you have read in this ebook or on ANY website.



[Breath-A-Licious small](#)
Dancing Paws Breath-A-Licious bones contain sodium tripolyphosphate to help

and responsibility.

First, you must seriously consider whether or not you are able to care for a pet – any pet. Caring for a pet can be time consuming and it is not free by any stretch of the imagination. Pets must have yearly checkups with the veterinarian, they must be vaccinated, and they require bedding, food dishes, collars, and toys. They require hygiene products such as special shampoos, sprays, and powders as well.

Pets require your attention. They not only need to be cared for in the physical sense, such as making sure that they have food and water, and that they are clean, they also need love and affection, as well as play time. If they do not have this, they are unhappy pets.

You must also consider the other people in your home. For instance, if you have children, it is a good idea to make sure that they know how to handle a ferret before you decide to adopt one. Children are not always gentle, and ferrets are quite delicate, weighing only two to four pounds when they are fully grown.

You should never adopt a ferret – or any other pet – on a whim. Yes, they are cute. Yes, they are fun to watch. Again, they are a great deal of responsibility. Take the time to read through this report to learn more about ferrets and their requirements before you adopt one.

Once you know what you are getting into, again, really think about why you want to adopt a ferret, and make sure that you are doing so for the right reasons.

Ferrets are most suitable for homes that do not have small children, but do have an adult who can be around to take care of the ferret throughout the day.

Ferrets are not like cats – regardless of the popularity of this statement. Ferrets will tear through the house like a human toddler, but at the same time, they don't like disruption, such as frequent visitors in and out of the house. To own a ferret, one must have patience – again, it is like having a toddler in your home full time.

Are you sure you want to adopt a ferret? If you are, read on to learn more about these fascinating creatures.

General Ferret Information

Nobody knows for sure where the ferret originated, or how long they have been roaming the earth. It is also unclear how long ferrets have been domesticated, however many experts believe that they have been domesticated creatures for about 2500 years. We believe that the ferret was first domesticated by the Egyptians, and that this occurred even before cats were domesticated. One thing about the history of ferrets is sure, however. They were used by Romans for hunting.

Today, there are some species of wild ferrets in Europe, but there are no wild ferrets in North America, with the exception of the Black Footed Ferret, which can be found in Wyoming, and is not closely related to the European Ferret. A



[Brewer's Yeast](#)

ActiPet Brewer's Yeast Chewables, with Garlic and Flax are specially formu



[Calming Formula for Cats](#)

Pet Naturals of Vermont Calming Formula is recommended for animals exposed



[Calming Formula for Dogs](#)

Pet Naturals of Vermont Calming Support formula for dogs is a supplement re



[Canine Complex](#)

ActiPet Canine Complex is the most complete multi vitamin and mineral formu



[Click to join](#)

domesticated ferret is not the same as a Black Footed Ferret, which is an endangered species.

Domestic ferrets are a part of the weasel family, and are also related to skunks, otters, badgers, and minks. Ferrets have both a winter and summer coat, and prefer temperatures around 68 degrees Fahrenheit.

Ferrets can live as long as 8 to 10 years. However, because they are very curious by nature, and because their systems are very fragile, they often do not die from 'old age.' Furthermore, ferrets that are not living in the wild absolutely must be spayed or neutered, unless they are used for breeding. If a female ferret is not spayed, and does not mate, she will suffer from aplastic anemia, and die a very painful death. She must be spayed before she reaches sexual maturity.

A full grown ferret will weigh between two and four pounds. Males are larger than females. Ferrets are fully grown when they are about seven months of age. They come in a variety of colors as well. They may be gray, black, silver, brown, or white, with varying shades of those colors mixed together. Their eyes are typically black, but albino ferrets have pink eyes.

A ferret may also have distinctive markings, such as a white 'mask' on his or her face or white paws.

Remember that ferrets are related to the skunk family. It is a good idea to have them de-scented at the same time they are spayed or neutered. Both of these procedures serve to help the animal live a longer life, and it is believed that spaying or neutering the ferret makes them even more 'domesticated' and suitable as a pet.

Ferrets are definitely fun, but they sleep eighteen to twenty hours a day. When they aren't sleeping, they have stored energy that must be spent. They busy themselves playing in various ways. In spite of how often they sleep, and how busy they are when they are awake, they do require food two or three times each day.

Unlike cats and dogs, ferrets do not 'mark' their territory. However, they are territorial. They are not stupid animals. They know what belongs to them, but they assume that anything that is in their reach is fair game – and that if they want it, it should be theirs. They use items that they find to make nests, and fill those nests with items that they consider 'treasures.'

Ferrets, again, are extremely curious. They want to watch everything that is going on in their world, and they can be so curious about things that it may even appear that they are trying to 'help.'

If you really want to see your ferret in action, note that they are typically most active for a two hour period just before sunrise, and another two hour period just before sunset. This is both their busy time and their play time. They will play with you, with other animals in the home, collect items for their various 'nests' and take time out to eat and drink. They accomplish a great deal in those small spaces of time.

Ferrets are prone to illnesses and diseases. You will learn more about those

[NaturalHolisticHealth](#)



[Great Health Sites](#)

[Natural Holistic Health Blog](#)

[Natural Herbs & Remedies](#)

[Akobi Natural Health Database](#)

[Natural Pet Health Blog](#)

[Anxiety Depression Info](#)

[ADHD Info](#)

[Mom's Blog](#)

[Natural Men's Health](#)

[Men's Health Zone](#)

[Women's Health Nurse](#)

[Avatrim - Natural Weight Loss w/ Green Tea](#)

[Melatrol Insomnia Relief](#)

[Breast Actives](#)

[Cellulite Solution](#)

[Cushy Lips Lip Plumper](#)

[Enlast Male Enhancement](#)

illnesses and diseases, and how to help prevent them, later. But anyone who owns a ferret must be prepared. It is a good idea to purchase pet insurance, which can be found at <http://www.gopetplan.com> or to have funds set aside for unexpected medical emergencies.

Unlike other pets, it is not uncommon for ferrets to break their teeth. When their teeth break, it is important that they visit the vet for treatment, because it is just as painful to them as it would be to you, if you broke one of your teeth. Later, you will learn a great deal about your ferret's health, however one thing you should note right away is that ferrets look for warm places to sleep. It is not uncommon for them to 'hide' themselves in clothing, blankets, or even under seat cushions. Make sure that you know where your ferret has hidden himself away before you plop down on the sofa!

Finally, ferrets are considered to be 'hypo-allergenic' pets. Unlike cats, dogs, and humans, ferrets don't produce dander. You won't have to worry about them shedding all over the furniture, or causing your allergies to kick into overdrive. For this reason, ferrets are an absolutely wonderful alternative pet for someone who does suffer with common pet allergies.

Earlier, we discussed your reasons for wanting a pet ferret. You've also learned that there are no wild ferrets in North America. It is vital that you not turn a domesticated ferret loose in the wild because they will not be able to survive it. If you adopt a ferret, and then discover for any reason that you cannot keep it, make sure that you give it to your local human society or to someone who is able to keep a pet ferret. Be a responsible pet owner!

Feeding Ferrets

Like any other pet, a ferret has to eat. Ferrets have very delicate systems, and cannot just eat anything, however. It is important to understand what is and is not good for your pet ferret in terms of food.

First, pet stores carry food that is especially designed for pet ferrets. If for any reason you cannot find ferret food, you can feed your ferret food that is designed for kittens – not fully grown cats. This should, however, be a temporary situation. Ask your pet store to order ferret food for you, or purchase ferret food online at <http://www.ferretdepot.com>.

Your ferret will eat two to four times a day. A ferret will eat just a little less than a cat would at one time, however because ferrets are carnivores, and food passes through them very fast, it is vital that food always be available to them. In other words, don't expect to put food down for your ferret at a specific time each day – they need the food always available to them.

They will typically eat once every three to four hours. A ferret will not eat more than they need, so you shouldn't have to worry about the pet getting too heavy. However, if you notice that your ferret is gaining too much weight, this is usually an indication that they are not getting enough exercise – not that they are eating too much.

[Deer Antler Plus](#)

[Bowtrol Colon Cleanse](#)

[Eazol Natural Pain Relief](#)

[Herbal Health Buy](#)

[HGH Energizer](#)

[Hypercet for Blood Pressure](#)

[Menozac - Natural Menopause Relief](#)

[NicoCure Stop Smoking Aid](#)

[Prostacet for Prostate Health](#)

[ReloraMax - Stress, Anxiety and Weight Loss](#)

[Thyromine for Thyroid Health](#)

[Venapro Hemorrhoids Treatment](#)

[ZetaClear Nal Fungus Relief](#)

[VirilityEx](#)

[Hair No More Removal Cream](#)

[Hoodia Diet Review](#)

[Acnezine Acne Treatment](#)

[Joint Advance](#)

[Revitol Anti-Aging Skincare](#)

[Mountain Rose Herbs](#)

[Optimum Diabetics](#)

[Natural Gain Plus](#)

[Provillus Hair Loss Treatment](#)

[BioSonics - Healing With Sound](#)

[Hypnosis Scripts](#)

[Natural Health Ebooks](#)

Dry ferret food is best, and it should be composed of 30 to 40 percent animal based protein, 20 to 30 percent fat, and have less than 3 percent of fiber. Dry food is preferred because it can be left out, and it won't spoil. However, you can treat your ferret from time to time with canned ferret food as well. In order to keep a ferret healthy, their diet must be high in protein and fat, but low in fiber. Learn to read labels, and make sure that the ferret food you purchase is good enough for your ferret – not all ferret foods are actually good for them.

Your ferret should always have access to fresh water. They do not want the water in a bowl, like a cat or dog prefers. You need a water bottle. These can be found at pet stores, or ordered from online sources. Again, make sure that the water is always fresh, and that the bottle always has water in it. Ferrets can quickly dehydrate.

Ferrets like sweets, but these are not good for them at all, so avoid this. Also note that ferrets like treats, which are available where ferret food is sold. Some people will recommend feeding your ferret fruit, because ferrets like fruit. However, it is healthier for your ferret if you avoid fruit, and stick with treats designed for ferrets. You should also ask your veterinarian to recommend a vitamin for your pet ferret to help keep him healthy and strong.

Housing for Ferrets

If it is your plan to keep your ferret caged all of the time, forget it! Ferrets - like cats and dogs - need room to roam. It is fine if you want to put your ferret in a cage at night, while you are asleep however. But it is not fine to keep your ferret constantly caged.

Ferrets are small, and they may seem miniscule roaming around your larger home. However, they quickly learn their way around. They won't get lost, even if you lose track of them. As long as you have made your house safe for your ferret, you won't have any problem allowing it to roam free.

The only reason you might want to cage your ferret would be when you have strangers in the home, including small children. Then, the cage becomes your ferret's safe haven. It should have soft bedding, such as old clothing or blankets inside. Include a few of the ferret's toys, and make sure that they can access food and water while inside of the cage.

Earlier, we mentioned caging the ferret while you are asleep. This is because ferrets become active about two hours before sunrise, and they may disturb your sleep. The better idea, instead of caging the animal, is to shut your bedroom door so that the ferret cannot wake you up.

If for some reason you absolutely must keep your ferret caged, such as when you are at work, don't put it in a tiny cage – despite how tiny the ferret is. Instead, invest in a large, multi-level home for your ferret. These are cage-like structures that measure anywhere from 24 to 32 inches high – or larger. There are multiple levels inside, which will provide your ferret with enough roaming room to keep him satisfied, even if not completely happy. These structures cost about \$150.

[Self-Hypnosis Downloads](#)



[Natural Remedies](#)

[Native Remedies](#)

[Natural Health Supplement Shop](#)

[PetAlive Herbal Remedies](#)

[Xtend-Life - Natural Health Products](#)



For the most part there is no reason why your ferret cannot roam around your home freely, as long as it has been made safe for your ferret, and as long as it is litter trained. Remember that ferrets are highly curious, and can easily get into dangerous situations, if you haven't taken measures to keep them out of those situations. Ferrets will not chew through walls or scratch up furniture.

Also remember that anything that is small enough or light enough to be carried off by your ferret most likely will end up in one of his or her many 'nests' around the house. Those nests can be made up of boxes, clothing, towels, or anything else your ferret can get his little paws on. Even if your ferret finds something that is not nest 'material' he may consider it to be a treasure worth his time, and it will most likely end up in his nest – especially if the item is made out of rubber. If he cannot move it, however, he won't want it. With ferrets, what is theirs is theirs, and what is yours is theirs if they decide they want it, unless you keep it out of their reach.

Ferret Hygiene

As discussed earlier, if you really want your ferret to be a suitable pet in your home, you will definitely want to neuter or spay the animal, and have it de-scented at the same time. This is the first step to good hygiene for your ferret. A female ferret, often referred to as a Jill, should be spayed shortly after she is weaned. An unneutered male ferret, known as a Hobb, should be neutered between the time he is weaned, and the time he reaches about six months old.

General hygiene for a ferret requires one bath, once a month in most cases. You should use ferret shampoo, but you can also use cat shampoo or shampoo designed for human babies. You should also use a conditioner.

Make sure that animal shampoo will not harm their eyes – you will need to soap them up good. Note, that even though a ferret is de-scented, they still have small scent glands just below their eyes. Wash that area well. While bathing your ferret, make sure that you inspect for any sores or scratches that may need treatment.

After bathing your ferret, dip a cotton swab into peroxide, and wipe his ears out. Do not shove the cotton swab too far down. If you insert the cotton swab in the ear, and you can't see the tip, you are going too far.

Your ferret may not appreciate being dried with a hair dryer. Instead, allow him to dry his own self off. They may burrow down into a basket or drawer full of clothes for this. Ideally, provide a basket full of soft towels.

Once again, you should only bath the ferret about once a month. If you bath him too often, you will dry out his skin, by removing too many of his natural oils. You don't have to brush your ferret – ever. However, you can get a cat brush, and your ferret may thoroughly enjoy the time spent with you getting a good brushing of his coat. This isn't because his coat needs to be brushed – but it just feels good.

Ferrets do not scratch up furniture, but they do have nails that get sharp. You will most likely want to keep his nails trimmed a bit. They may be insecure about this process the first time or two, but you can distract them with a ferret treat or toy to

Native Remedies

get the job done. You can use nail clipper that are used for cats for this.

Don't cut too far down! Look closely at your ferret's nails. The pink portion is where the quick is, and if you cut into that, it will hurt him! Cut the nails to just above the quick.

Do not ever dip a ferret, like you would a cat or dog, for the treatment of fleas or ticks. Instead, use tick and flea powder that is designed for kittens, and contains pyrethrins.

Your ferret's teeth will often be the biggest concern where their hygiene is concerned. While most ferrets won't chew up the furniture and such, baby ferrets might. They don't lose their milk teeth until they are between seven and nine weeks old. Purchase rubber baby chew toys for them.

You will want to brush and check your ferret's teeth regularly. Your ferret may be a little uncomfortable with this at first, but they will quickly get used to it, and not mind you cleaning their teeth at all. If you can start a regular routine of dental care with your ferret when he or she is young, you will find that it is even less stressful on the ferret.

If your ferret does not like the idea of you messing with his mouth, you will need to get him used to it gently. Start with your finger, rubbing his teeth gently. From there graduate to rubbing his gums. Keep doing this until he doesn't seem to mind you doing this, and then start using a tooth brush. This may take several days to a week.

Use mint flavored pet toothpaste. Toothpaste is manufactured especially for ferrets as well, and can be found where other ferret supplies are sold. It can additionally be ordered online. You won't have to rinse your ferrets teeth or mouth if you are using ferret toothpaste – it is safe for him to swallow. You can use a baby toothbrush to get the job done.

Again, your ferret does need your help for great hygiene, using the information above. However, note that between baths, your ferret will groom himself. In fact, this is one of the reasons that so many people think that ferrets are just like cats – they groom themselves just as cats do.

Because ferrets do groom themselves as cats do, you should discuss a laxative with your veterinarian. This will help them to pass ingested fur more easily. Do not give your ferret a laxative without discussing this with your veterinarian first! Do not give them hair ball treatment designed for cats either. Other hygiene tasks do not involve handling the ferret.

Instead, it involves the ferrets living conditions. Wash the ferrets bedding at least once a week. Keep his litter box clean as well. Also keep his food bowl washed, with soap and warm water, making sure that you rinse away all soap residues. Do the same with his water bottle. You should boil frequently chewed rubber toys, just as you would for a baby, to remove germs and keep your ferret healthy.

Litter Training Your Ferret



Rediscover
Passion



Optimal
Wellness

- Anti-aging
- Scientifically Formulated
- ALL NATURAL
no side effects

XTEND-LIFE
Natural Products

[MORE INFO](#)



Like cats, ferrets are known as latrine animals. This means that unlike dogs, they will not just relieve themselves anywhere. They prefer a specific place for urination and bowel movements. A litter box is perfect for them, and with a little guidance from you, they will seek out the litter box when they have need of it.

Ferrets prefer covered litter boxes, but you may need to remove the flap door in the front so that he can easily get in and out. If you must have an open style litter box, put it in a corner. He wants to feel safe while he does his business.

Like other animals, ferrets generally need to relieve themselves upon waking up, but unlike other animals, this is usually the only time that they need to relieve themselves. This does not mean, however, that they won't suddenly have need of the litter box shortly after eating as well.

To litter train your ferret, start by keeping it confined to a small space, where the litter box is located, upon waking. Do not allow the ferret to roam to other parts of the home until after it has taken care of its business. Also, choose a place where the litter box will remain, even after the ferret is litter trained.

Until your ferret is litter trained, keep a close eye on it. A ferret will almost always seek out a corner to relieve himself. If he starts to try to turn a corner of the house into a bathroom, pick him up and rush him to his litter box. You will know what your ferret is doing in the corner – or planning to do in the corner – if you are watching closely. When they select a corner for relieving themselves, they won't walk straight into the corner. Instead, they will back into the corner. It takes just a little patience, but he will soon get the idea, and start seeking out the litter box when he needs to 'go.'

Often young ferrets will actually play in the litter box. They will stop this on their own, after you've trained them to the point where they know what the litter box is for. Don't confuse them. Do not set up another 'sand box' for play. In most cases, you won't have to worry about it, and they will stop playing in it on their own. You can also avoid this problem by not putting too much litter in the box. It shouldn't be more than an inch thick. Unlike cats, ferrets do not cover their urine or feces.

Young ferrets are often kept in cages, for their own safety, in the beginning. If this is the case, the litter box must be able to fit inside of the cage. Make sure that it is as far away from the food and water inside the cage as possible, and again, make sure that it is in a corner.

When selecting litter, use dust free litter. The clumping style is best. You can also use shredded newspaper, as well as cedar wood chips. It is important that the litter box be 'scooped' out daily, removing the waste.

Understanding Your Ferret

Many people are surprised to find that their new ferrets are actually quite sociable once they grow accustomed to their surroundings. Unfortunately, many people also don't realize that interaction with you is vital to your ferret's well-being.

Earlier, we mentioned that having a ferret in the house is much like having a very active toddler. Toddlers, like everyone need love and attention, as does your ferret. Your ferret will probably never fully understand the words that you say, but he will always recognize your voice, and will he does come understand the tone of your voice.

Eventually, your ferret will understand when you are happy with him, and when you are angry with him – even if he doesn't understand what he did to make you angry. It is important to talk to your ferret often, since he does recognize your voice. He will come to depend on you being there. Many people don't realize that if a ferret is separated from the person he has come to depend on, he will be very sad.

If you find that your ferret is misbehaving, not cooperating, or acting depressed, this is a good indication that he is not happy with the arrangement. It most likely means that he is not getting enough positive attention from you.

Again, ferrets are small, delicate creatures. They really have few defenses. However, other than their scent glands, they do have one very powerful defense. Their jaws are strong enough to crush small bones, such as the ones in your hand – if they wanted to. Ferrets tend to 'nip' fingers and toes when they are playing, and they will also nip when they are frightened or excited.

You can teach your ferret not to nip you by tapping him on the nose when he does, and saying 'NO' strongly. This is a time when he needs to know you are angry with him, but after you've said 'NO' you should stop being angry. In this way, he can associate your anger with his nipping, and he will stop doing it. In the end, he loves you, and wants to please you, but in order for him to understand it, you must be consistent. Don't let him get away with nipping you even one time.

Ferrets are possibly more curious than cats. They really do want to see what is going on – they are interested. It isn't that they are trying to 'get in your way.' If possible, accommodate them, and let them watch whatever it is that you are doing. Furthermore, because they are incredibly social, they love to go outdoors with you for a walk, on a harness and leash.

You need to get to know your ferret. He can't talk to you, but you can learn to read his expressions. Watch him closely to figure out when he is happy, when he is sad, when he is tired, when he wants to play, etc. Learn his habits.

Ferrets do not have good vision, and some actually are blind – and deaf. If your ferret scares easily or doesn't seem to cooperate, you may need to get his vision and hearing checked to be sure. If your ferret is blind or deaf, make sure that your ferret knows when he is being approached by tapping the surface that he is on, such as the floor, several times before getting your hands near him.

You must have a sense of humor if you have a ferret. They do the most interesting – funny – things in order to explore. They are quite energetic, and very determined. For example, your ferret may really want to know what is on top of your china cabinet, and while he may not figure it out one day, he will try day after day until he does figure it out – or keep trying even if he doesn't. In the course of trying to figure it out, he will try some very funny maneuvers.

Ferrets have long memories – especially with bad experiences. If something hurts them, they will typically remember it, and avoid it – or bite it if it comes near them again. It is easy to tell if a ferret has been abused before it came to live with you, and if this is the case, you must figure out what that abuse was, and reassure the ferret, with your actions, that they will not be abused like that again.

Ferrets will often ‘flatten’ themselves against the surface that they are on. When they do this, it is believed that they think that they are invisible – that you cannot see them. This is what they do when they are sneaking up on something. The trouble is that he will also strike this pose when he wants to play with you – and you have to figure out whether he is being invisible or whether he wants to play.

If you think the wrong thing, your ferret will be disappointed, with all of the fun taken out of whichever game he was playing. Again, learn to understand your ferret.

Your ferret knows how to do the ‘happy dance.’ Unfortunately, when he does this, he will look like something is wrong with him. He may bump into objects or walls while dancing. He will stand up on his hind legs and bounce and move with his back arched, and will ‘sing’ while doing it. Again – there is nothing wrong with him. He is not in pain. He is not scared. He is happy, and wants to play.

While each ferret has his own unique personality, which you will come to know and love, there are some things that all ferrets do. Note that your ferret sleeps a lot, and when he sleeps, he sleeps very deeply – to the point where you may think he has died. Sometimes, even picking him up and shaking won’t wake him up. If this happens, and you fear for your ferret’s life, watch closely to see if you detect breathing, or a heart beat.

After a ferret uses the litter box, he may drag his bottom along the floor. With dogs, this is usually an indication that he might have worms. This isn’t so with ferrets. He is actually ‘wiping’ himself, and it is a good idea to provide him with a throw rug outside of the litter box that can be picked up and washed.

Your ferret will most likely appear to be ‘clumsy.’ He will run out into walls and such often. He may hit them fairly hard, and this may worry you. Don’t worry. Ferrets are a little tougher than they look, and they aren’t running into walls having convulsions – they are simply moving too fast, and have too poor eyesight to see the walls.

Ferrets may appear to be so cold that they are trembling. If you didn’t know any better, you might think that they are freezing to death, and you would run to turn up the heat, wrap them in a warm blanket, and worry. They are not cold. Ferrets often tremble with excitement and anticipation. It also is not the cold, and it isn’t even fear.

Once your ferret has reached maturity, it will still be as active as playful as it was when it was young. Ferrets stay playful for their entire lives. However, as adults, they do actually become more attached to you, and more sociable with the people that they know.

At six months of age, your ferret becomes more like a teenager than a toddler. Like any normal teenager, he will test your limits. You may think that all of your training has been undone, but it hasn't. This will last until he is about nine months old, at which time he will go back to his 'toddler' ways, which is how he will remain for the rest of his life. Be patient during the 'teen' months, but just as you wouldn't allow a teenager to push those limits too far, don't allow your ferret to either.

While your adult ferret will actually start finding you and 'requesting' to be held, a young ferret, often called a kit, doesn't like to be held too much. This is not because they don't like you, it is because they are 'busy' exploring everything around them. Often, exploring something once is not enough. They will go back and check things over many times before they are satisfied.

Again, watch your ferret closely. Learn to gauge his actions, his expressions, and his reactions so that you can learn to actually communicate with him, by understanding what is going on with him. He's can't say words that you can understand, anymore than you can say words that he understands. But as you get to know each other, you will find that the two of you communicate with each other very well.

Playing With Your Ferret

Your ferret will be very playful. He loves to play – and he wants you to play with him. If there are other ferrets, cats, or dogs in the home, he will want to play with them as well. In fact, ferrets are happiest when there is another animal to be a companion to them.

It sounds odd, but if you are a busy person, who doesn't have a lot of spare time, it is a good idea to have two ferrets, instead of one, so that they can entertain each other. Playing is a very big part of your ferret's life, and he will remain playful throughout his life.

Ferrets like tug of war games, hide and seek games, and chase games. They like 'gentle' boxing games as well. Generally, you will know when your ferret wants to play, because he will come to you and basically 'bounce around' excitedly. You will quickly learn how to tell if your ferret is enjoying the games you are playing with him, as well as which game is his absolute favorite.

Your ferret will appreciate small toys, such as the ones that cats and babies play with. But anything can become a toy to a ferret. Like children with big empty boxes after Christmas, ferrets can have hours of fun with the simplest things. They don't require a lot of expensive toys.

One thing that ferrets like to do is to dig. As mentioned earlier, when they are young, they may dig and play in the litter box, until they figure out what the litter box is actually for. Once they know, they will never play in it again – but they still have a desire to dig.

A solution to this is to provide them with a box of dirt. Yes – they will get dirty, but the fun that they will have makes it worth them getting dirty for, even to you! The important thing is that you not use the same substance in the play dirt box as you

do in the litter box. In order to keep them from tracking dirt all over the house, provide the dirt or sand in a plastic container. When the dirt is not in use, put the lid on it and tuck it up out of the ferret's reach.

Using string and any type of object tied to the end of the string, you can 'fish' with your ferret. Toss the line out, and slowly 'reel' it in. Your ferret will enjoy trying to catch it as you reel it in. Some people actually play this game with real fishing poles. If you do, you need about 20 pound test line.

Crumbled paper or newspaper is great fun – because it makes a wonderful noise. Your ferret will roll in it and dance on it. You can also crumple newspaper and put it in a paper sack on the floor. This provides hours of entertainment.

Your ferret will greatly love a cat tree. These are tall, carpeted structures that provide cats – or in this case ferrets – with hidey-holes and ledges. You can also use string and tie toys to the tree so that they dangle. Climbing the 'tree' will give your ferret exercise that he may not get otherwise.

On your hands and knees, chase your ferret. You won't scare him, as long as you aren't rough. You can also 'run' from him on your hands and knees, and he will chase you. Ferrets love to play chase.

Purchase some Ferretone. This substance is to ferret's what cat nip is to cats. They will go crazy with any item that has a little Ferretone wiped on it. You can purchase Ferretone in most pet stores that carry ferret supplies.

Use PVC pipe and create tunnels and slides for your ferret. Make sure that the circumference of the pipe is large enough that the ferret won't get stuck inside, even if he turns around inside. Put one or two pieces of the PVC pipe at a sharp angle, and your ferret will really use it as a slide, going on that slide again and again. He will adore it.

Play tug of war with your ferret. You can use an actual rope or something as simple as a dish towel. You are stronger than your ferret, so be sure to let him win often!

Ferrets even have fun 'helping' you clean the house. Allow them to 'help' make the beds. They will tunnel in the sheets and blankets while you get the bed made – slowly. They will chase brooms as you try to sweep, and may even want to ride on the broom if you drag it around the floor. Like dogs and cats, however, they may not be very thrilled with the noise the vacuum cleaner makes.

Overall, ferrets just want to have fun. They want attention from you, even if they have other animals to play with. They will play as roughly or as gently as you like, and in their excitement, if they have not been taught better, they may try to nip you or other animals. Again, make sure that you correct this behavior with a tap on the nose, and a firm 'NO.'

Use caution when selecting toys for your ferret. Ferrets seem to be fascinated with rubber items, but you don't want to give them items that they could easily swallow. When selecting toys, and when playing, make sure that you always consider the safety of your ferret.

Finally, remember that a ferret that is not handled and played with actually becomes bored and unhappy. Make sure that you set aside time to play with your ferret everyday.

Keeping Your Ferret Safe

As stated earlier, it is important that you always consider the safety of your ferret. Ferrets can live to be between eight and ten years old, and the record age of a ferret is as long as 15 years. However, most ferrets don't live that long because they either become ill, or literally die from their own curiosity. In other words, they are so curious that they often get themselves into dangerous places or situations.

Ferrets can easily swallow small objects. Do not leave items such as buttons or coins lying around. When a ferret finds something small like this, he wants to carry it to one of his nests or hidey-holes, and he does this by putting the object in his mouth.

Ferrets are very smart. Between their intelligence, their determination, and their curiosity, they are often a danger to themselves. For example, if you put cleaning chemicals in a cabinet, the ferret can open the cabinet, and will get into the chemicals without knowing any better – just like a toddler would.

Note that any substance that is dangerous to a child is also dangerous to a ferret, but there are also substances that are not dangerous to a child, which are still dangerous to a ferret. Some of these substances include crayons, coffee, chocolate, Christmas tree tinsel, cola, grass from Easter baskets, matches, mothballs, perfume, salt, raw meat, shaving cream, slug or snail type baits, spices, and wax. Make sure that your ferret does not come into contact with these things.

You must 'ferret proof' your home. If you aren't sure how to do that, think about what you would do to 'baby proof' your home, and do the same things. Ferrets are like cats in many ways, and very unlike cats in other ways. For example, a cat uses his whiskers to determine whether or not his body will fit in a space. A ferret doesn't do this. A ferret may try to squeeze into a space that is too small for him, and get stuck.

Earlier, we mentioned that a ferret should never be caged all of the time. He should be free to roam your house when you are home – and awake. However, for the ferret's safety, you should consider purchasing a large, multi-level cage. The ferret should be in this cage – again for his own safety – anytime that you are not home, and possibly when you are sleeping as well.

Ferrets literally like to get in and under things. Trash cans, purses, ashtrays, laundry baskets, and anything else that they can get in or under are fair game to them. They like to tunnel, and they can easily and quickly tunnel into a basket full of clothes or the trash in the waste basket. Before you toss those clothes in the washer or toss the trash outside, you need to know where your ferret is.

Potted plants should be kept out of the ferrets reach. Some plants are dangerous

to ferrets, but for the most part, your ferret is a danger to your plants. They will love rooting in the dirt – uprooting the plant.

The general rule for ferrets is that if it is big enough to get their head inside, they will figure out how to make their body follow. When they are getting inside something, they don't consider whether they will be able to get back out again, and often, they can't without your help.

Ferrets know how to open cabinet doors, drawers, and even how to unzip things. Never assume something is too complicated for the ferret to figure out. Use child-proof locks and such to keep your ferret out of places that are dangerous for him.

Ferrets also get under things – like refrigerators. It is vital that you block things such as refrigerators, washers, dryers, ovens, and dishwashers off from your ferret if possible. At the very least, arrange it so that the ferret cannot get under these appliances, which would lead him into the mechanics of the appliance, putting his life in danger. This also includes furniture that is commonly moved about, such as recliners and sofa beds.

Styrofoam is a danger to your ferret. This is especially true for the small pieces of Styrofoam used in packages. If your ferret ingests items such as this, which cannot be digested, he is likely to suffer from intestinal obstruction, which can quickly kill him. You will learn more about this later.

Ferrets won't have any trouble learning their way around the inside of your home, but this is not true outdoors. In large spaces, a ferret's sense of direction fails him. Never allow your ferret outdoors unless he is on a leash.

As mentioned earlier, you absolutely need to be aware of where your ferret is when you are moving around inside of your home. He may be under the cushion in your favorite chair. He may be in the trash can, in that basket of clothes, or even inside your purse, as you are walking out the door.

Some things ferrets do aren't dangerous to them, but could be very inconvenient for you. Do you know where your car keys are? What about your wallet? If not, check the hidey-holes. Learn to keep things like this up where the ferret cannot get to them, or you will spend hours looking for those important items.

The best way to ferret proof your home, again, is to first treat each room like a toddler or baby is going to have free reign in it. Second, go over each room again, and look for potential dangers to your ferret. You can use baby gates to block off some areas, although most ferrets can climb – even though they don't climb nearly as well as cats. They also cannot jump very far.

Common Ferret Health Concerns

There are many health conditions that are common to ferrets. Ferrets, unlike dogs and cats, need to be seen by the veterinarian immediately when a health problem crops up. If you wait a day or two, your ferret probably will not survive. If you are a responsible pet owner, you will always have emergency veterinarian funds set aside for your ferret.

We will discuss specific health concerns in just a moment. However, there are some instances where you should contact your veterinarian as soon as you notice the signs. These occurrences include:

- Not eating or drinking for 24 hours.
- Drinking excessively.
- Vomiting or diarrhea that lasts for more than 24 hours.
- An abnormal change in behavior
- Seeming to be sad, depressed, or to have no energy. Remember, they love to play, so if they aren't willing to play, something is probably wrong.
- Crying out in pain when touched or picked up.

Below, you will find common illnesses that ferrets are in danger of.

Intestinal Obstructions – This is the biggest danger to your ferret. We touched on this earlier, but it is a very serious problem that bears more discussion.

Ferrets are just like little children – they put everything in their mouths. If you are lucky enough to recognize that there is a problem, your ferret must undergo surgery to remove the object from the intestine. Otherwise, he will die a slow and painful death. An intestinal blockage may be indicated if your ferret is vomiting, has problems having a bowel movement, does not eat or drink, or cannot hold down food or water. Immediate care is required.

Canine Distemper – This disease is almost always fatal to ferrets. Do not assume that your 'indoor only' ferret is protected from canine distemper – it isn't. Be sure that you get your ferret vaccinated, and that you keep his vaccinations up-to-date.

Epizootic Catarrhal Enteritis – Also called ECE, this viral disease is actually an inflammation in the mucus membrane of the intestine. If your ferret has this, the symptoms will start with bright green diarrhea. The ferret will lose his appetite, and suffer from weight loss. Immediate treatment is needed, but this is often fatal as well.

Parvo – Also known as Aleutian Disease Virus (ADV), this virus affects the immune system. There is no cure, and there is no vaccine. There is however a test to find out if your ferret is a carrier of this virus.

Adrenal Disease – This is a growth of adrenal glands that turn out to be cancer or hyperplasia. One of the symptoms is unusual hair loss. The ferret may become unusually aggressive as well, and have trouble urinating or having a bowel movement. Female ferrets will become very agitated while urinating. Treatment is available. Without treatment, however, it is fatal.

Insulinoma – This is actually cancer of the pancreas. Signs of insulinoma include lethargy and seizures, drooling, foaming at the mouth, anguished screams, and seemingly staring into space. Treatment is available, and without treatment, it is fatal.

Lymphoma – This is a type of malignant cancer that may invade the liver, kidney, lungs, and spleen. Unfortunately, the cancer gets pretty far advanced before one

notices the symptoms. Radiation therapy is available, but the disease is usually fatal.

Other – Ferrets are not immune to the flu or common cold that you catch. In fact, you and your ferret can pass colds or the flu back and forth to each other. Some ferrets are extremely rare looking. They may have a white stripe on their face. They may even have a uniquely white head. Beware of these ‘really cool looking’ ferrets. They will almost always be a carrier of a congenital defect that is similar to Waardenburg Syndrome. They are often deaf, and their skulls are misshapen.

In no time at all, you will really understand what is and is not normal for your ferret. If your ferret is acting in a way that is not normal, and you can’t find a reason for it, it is in the best interest of the ferret to see a veterinarian as soon as possible.

When your ferret is a kit, choose a veterinarian that knows how to treat ferrets, and try to stick with him or her. Your ferret will become used to the vet – and the vet will also have a better understanding of what is and is not normal for your ferret.

Above, we discussed illnesses and diseases, but your ferret can also easily injure himself – remember that they are a bit clumsy. If your ferret is ‘favoring’ a paw, bleeding, or seems sore to the touch, be sure to see your veterinarian to find out what is wrong and receive treatment.

Is It Legal to Own a Ferret?

At one time, it was not legal to own a ferret in the United States. That has changed however, and today, in the United States, there are only two states in which one may not keep a ferret as a pet. These states are California and Hawaii.

Although these are the only two *states* that have laws against owning ferrets, many other *cities* also have restrictions on owning ferrets as pets. These cities include New York and Washington, DC. Some cities allow citizens to own ferrets, but require them to have a permit.

Ferrets are also not legal in some territories, such as Puerto Rico. In Australia, it is illegal to have a ferret in the Northern Territory, in Queensland. You may own a ferret in Victoria if you have a permit.

Ferrets are illegal in Iceland, New Zealand, and Portugal. You may own a ferret in Brazil, but they must be spayed or neutered, and they must have a microchip identification tag.

Traveling with your ferret may be difficult. Certain airlines will not allow them. These airlines include Ryanair, US Airways, and Southwest Airlines. Other airlines will allow ferrets, but they must be in a cage, and transported in the cargo area. Airlines that require ferrets to be caged, but allow them in the cabin area include Delta Air Lines and Luxair.

Ferrets may not be imported into Australia. In Canada, ferrets may be imported from the United States, but require a Permit to Import if they come from any other country. Ferrets can be imported into Europe. Private Citizens may not import ferrets into Japan, but they are welcomed in the United Kingdom.

Before you adopt a ferret, make sure that it is legal to own one in your city and state. You can call your local animal shelter to find out this information in most cases. If they aren't sure, they should be able to direct you to the right agency for this information.

Ferrets really do make wonderful pets, but again, if it isn't legal for you to own one, or you cannot give the ferret the time and attention that it requires – or the expense, don't adopt one. If you do adopt one of these amazingly fun creatures, be prepared to fall in love – and to be loved!



[DGP Dog Gone Pain](#)

Aches and pains reduce your dog's enjoyment of life and our enjoyment of th



[Digestion Reliever](#)

For fast, safe relief of gas, cramping, pain and other abdominal discomfort



[Digestive Blend](#)

ActiPet Digestive Blend contains prebiotics to nourish beneficial bacteria,



[Digestive Support for Cats](#)

An effective formula for cats to support proper digestion and bowel health.



Caring for Your Pet Naturally

More and more dog and cat owners are turning to natural pet care to treat various health conditions as well as promote general well-being in their dogs and cats.

New research shows that high quality natural remedies can be safer and oftentimes more effective solution to many common pet ailments. They can not only prevent and treat dog health problems, but also boost immunity and contribute to a long, healthy life for your pet.

As with many of the prescription medications we take, chemical-based drugs for pets can cause very serious side effects as well as weaken immunity which could lead to more health problems down the road. One prime example of this is the recent recall of one of the most popular heartworm medications, ProHeart 6, by the FDA due to over 5000 reports of uncontrolled bleeding, liver problems, seizures and even deaths in dogs who were taking the medication.

If you would like to learn more about safe, effective [natural pet care supplements](#) for treating a wide variety of health conditions and improve your pet's health just follow the link, or find more information below.

How are natural pet supplements different than conventional pet medications?

The major difference is that most of them do not cause the serious adverse reactions of prescription medications. Side effects from pharmaceutical drugs are a leading cause of illness and death in humans...it only follows that this is the case with medications for pets.

Natural pet care can offer a safe treatment option, but can also get to the root of the problem and prevent reoccurrence, unlike conventional meds that only treat the symptoms of the disorder and nothing else.

Many pets are allergic to popular medications for heartworm, distemper, kennel cough and others. Still other dogs and cats do not respond well to these convention treatments.

All natural pet remedies and natural pet cures can be quite effective in treating many dog and cat health conditions with vitamins, minerals, herbal extracts and other nutrients that offer health benefits.

If you are interested in natural pet supplements for your dog or cat, take a look at PetAlive.com, offering herbal and homeopathic treatments for many common health conditions as well as boosting immunity and general health of your pet.