



# FERRET care sheet



Always wash your hands after handling your Ferret or its housing to help maintain sanitary conditions.

## PET DEPOT

### CAGING NEEDED

- Appropriate cage size. Ferrets need plenty of room to play. Ferrets like to climb so a tall cage is ideal. The cage should be escape proof. Up to two ferrets can easily be maintained in a large cage no smaller than 24" long x 24" wide x 18" in height (bare minimum).
- Provide a corner litter box. Pelleted or recycled paper is recommended. Cedar and pine are not recommended.
- A sleeping enclosure should always be provided in your ferret's cage, and should be dark and enclosed. Ferrets love sleep and play areas such as slings, hammocks, and shelves. Be sure all cage furniture is securely attached to the cage.

### ENVIRONMENT

The temperature should be kept in their comfort range of between 50 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit or high humidity. Avoid extreme temperatures.

### DIET

Ferrets are strict carnivores. Their gastrointestinal transit time is 3-4 hours therefore they should have easy to digest high-quality proteins and fats. It is very important to avoid high carbohydrate and high fiber foods due to the absence of intestinal flora to break them down. A sign of a fat deficient diet is a dry and dull coat. A dry based food may reduce the incidence of dental calculi build up. A commercial food made especially for ferrets should be provided. There are a number of quality ferret diets available now. DO NOT feed kitten, cat or dog food.

### WATER NEEDS

Provide fresh, clean, chlorine-free water daily.

### MISC. INFORMATION

- Ferrets make very nice pets especially if handled frequently when young.
- Ferrets sleep 70-75% and play the other 25-30%.
- Toys encourage Ferrets to be more active and inquisitive.
- Ferrets should visit the veterinarian at least once a year for a thorough health examination and vaccinations.

### AVERAGE SIZE

Male Ferret: 3-5 lbs, 17" - 24" Length. Female Ferret: 1-3lbs, 12" - 16" Length.

### LIFE SPAN

Up to 8 years.

## SHOPPING LIST FOR NEEDED SUPPLIES

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ferret Food | <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate size Cage                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Bowl   | <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Litter (No Cedar or Pine) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Litter Box  | <input type="checkbox"/> Nest House / Hammock                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Bowl  | <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise Toys                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vitamins    | <input type="checkbox"/> Ferret Treats                         |
|                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Book about Ferrets                    |