

Quick Ferret Facts:

1. Ferrets are high maintenance pets.
2. Ferrets are not caged pets.
3. Ferrets are *obligate carnivores*.
4. Ferrets can be adopted from shelters.
5. Ferrets can live anywhere between 6-10+ years depending on breeding and how you care for them.
6. Ferrets are social pets, and thrive in pairs or groups.
7. Most ferrets sold in the United States, Canada and Japan are already fixed, with rear scent glands removed



Did you know?

The bulk of ferrets in the United States, Canada and Japan come from **ferret mills**. Most ferrets sold in pet stores are from these mills. Ferrets are tested on, crammed in cages, forcibly bred, and shipped out before they get to know their mother and siblings.

To ethically adopt a ferret, check local shelters, online ads, and ferret groups in your state.



Ferrets are NOT rodents. They belong to the Mustelidae family and their care is more similar to that of a cat or dog.

Did you know?

Ferrets are very expensive animals. It's recommended to have at least \$1,000 set aside for each ferret. More is better.

Before you get your ferrets...

1. Find a local exotic vet with ferret experience.
2. If your parents are getting them for you, make sure they understand the responsibilities and finances with owning ferrets.
3. Have a savings prepared for them.
4. Begin the ferret proofing process.
5. Do lots of research!



Cost of Owning a Ferret Early 2020

464 people responded to the survey
80.8% of people own between 1-4 ferrets, the average being 4 ferrets
2 ferrets is the most common number in each household

67% of ferrets came from a pet store
39% of ferrets came from rehoming situations (Craigslist, friends, etc)
24% of ferrets were adopted from a shelter/rescue
4% of ferrets came from a private breeder
3% of ferrets were found outside

The most common fee for adopting a ferret is \$200.
59% of ferrets cost less than \$200. 18% cost more

65.5% of people spend between \$20 - \$50 a month on food
34.5% of people spend more than that on food

47.4% of people spend between \$5 - \$10 a month on treats.
34.7% of people don't buy treats (or rarely buy treats)
17.9% of people spend over \$10 on treats a month

The average cost of litter/potty supplies was around \$18 a month

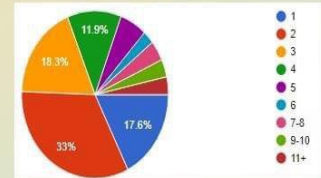
The average cost of cleaning/bedding/toys/etc was around \$20 a month

74% of ferrets had a routine exam within the last 12-18 months, costing an average of \$60 per exam
55% of ferrets received vaccines within the last 12-18 months, costing an average of \$25 per vaccine
44% of ferrets went to the vet for a non-emergency health concern
26% of ferrets went to the emergency vet, which cost an average of \$630 (46% of visits were \$300 or cheaper)
The average amount spent at the vet over the last 12-18 months was \$900 (50% of people spent under \$300)

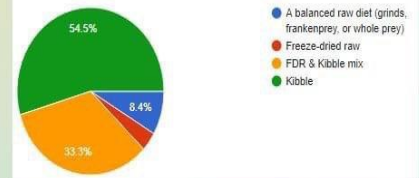
34% of ferrets needed medicine (temporary) within the last 12 - 18 months
18% of ferrets were on medicine that they will need for the rest of their lives
Medicine cost an average of \$38 per month
19% of ferrets were helped over the rainbow bridge

22% of ferrets had adrenal disease
16% of ferrets had insulinoma
6% of ferrets had a dental issue that required vet attention
5% of ferrets had a blockage that required vet attention
3% of ferrets had bladder stones
3% of ferrets had digestive issues that required vet attention
2% of ferrets had lymphoma

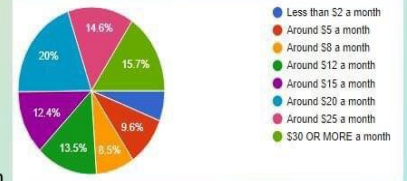
Number of ferrets per owner:



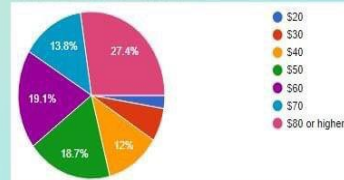
Diet:



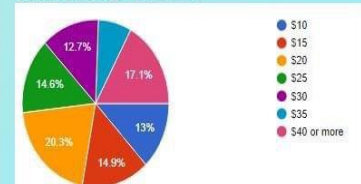
Cost of potty supplies:



Cost of a basic vet exam:



Cost of a single vaccine:



(expense chart created by Ais)

When you get your ferrets...

They'll want to explore everything! Don't be surprised if the car ride home knocks them out, they may sleep for a few hours before interacting with you.

If adding a new ferret to an already established "business" make sure to **quarantine the new ferret for at least two weeks**. This is to avoid any transmissible diseases from the new ferret.

Any new ferret needs to **go to the vet ASAP**. There are a few things you need to get done at their first vet appointment.

1. Wellness exam
2. Fecal check
3. Ear mites check
4. Discuss vaccines



Did you know?

Ferrets can be vaccinated for both Distemper and Rabies. Ferrets are prone to vaccine reactions, so make sure not to get both done on the same day, and that Benadryl is given to the ferret. The ferret should be monitored for 24 hours for any adverse reactions.



Ferret proofing is crucial for the safety of your pets!

There are many resources online to help you ferret proof. Ferrets love to go under things and into things. Keep this in mind while you're ferret proofing.

Ferrets should also not have any access to plants, cleaners, human food, rubber and many more.

Fun Facts About Ferret Set Ups

1. Ferrets can live cage free if their areas are made safe for them.
2. If you must cage your ferret, they need a minimum of 6 hours out of the cage. This is still not a lot of time, so they may *cage rage*.
3. Ferrets should not be kept in plastic cages. These cages are very cheaply made and not safe or big enough for ferret use.
4. Ferrets should not be kept on exposed wire floors. This will damage their feet.
5. Ferrets should be given fleece liners and blankets over loose pellets or shavings.

Did you know?

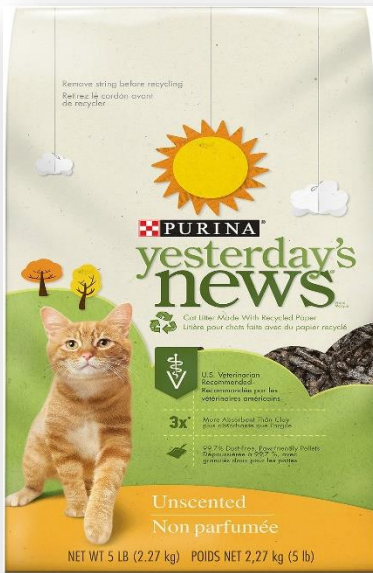
“Cage raging” is when your ferret shows boredom behaviors in their cage. This may look like bar biting, water / food bowl dumping, blanket chewing, and more.

If you notice your ferrets cage raging, they need more free roam time or they risk damaging their teeth or getting a blockage.

The only cages I recommend for ferret use are the Double Ferret and Critter Nation cages. The single is still small, so I recommend the double with additional units as needed.

(Cage credit to Tatyana @modernmustela)





Ferrets can be trained to use litter boxes and pee pads.

Litter training is one of the first things you should work on when your ferrets come home. Sometimes even adult ferrets need a refresher. To learn how to litter train, check out “Litter Training 101” by Pazuandfriends YouTube channel.

Best potty items for ferrets...

1. Large litter pans with easy entry (avoid triangle boxes).
2. Unscented paper pellet litter
3. Unscented pee pads
4. Newspaper

Worst potty items for ferrets...

1. Clay litter
2. Pearl litter
3. Scented litter

Did you know?

Ferrets are very sensitive to smells and cleaners. Make sure to only choose unscented detergents, cleaners, and litter.

Ferrets DO NOT need to be bathed

Bathing strips the natural oils and makes them even more oily and smelly.

Vinegar Glass Cleaner Benefits:

Save money; avoid harsh fumes/chemicals; effective, streak-free clean

You'll need:

A spray bottle

1 part white vinegar

1 part water



from the spruce

How to bleach



Ferrets bite!

Ferrets can be trained to be less nippy towards their owners via positive reinforcement and clicker training.

Ferrets should not be left unsupervised with small children or other pets in the home.

Did you know?

Ferrets should **never** be housed with, or allowed to interact with prey species. This can include, rabbits, hamsters, birds, rats, lizards, and more.

Ferrets were domesticated to hunt rabbits and have a very strong prey drive.

Ferrets can have supervised interactions with dogs and cats. Extra care should be taken with puppies and kittens.

If you're worried about biting, *adopt adult to senior ferrets!* These ferrets are still adorable and humorous like kits, but most have been litter *and* bite trained.

Kits (baby ferrets) are a lot of work. They need full training, more enrichment, time, and a lot of patience. I highly recommend first timers look at older ferrets before trying to adopt kits.

Facts About Ferret Diet

1. Ferrets should eat a **balanced raw diet** for optimal health.
2. Ferrets are obligate carnivores meaning they can only eat animal products.
3. Food is medicine. The healthier the diet, the healthier your ferrets will be.
4. If you can't feed raw, freeze dried and air dried raw are good options. [Check out my ferret food chart!](#)
5. Ferrets should never be fed foods and treats containing carbs, starches, vegetables, fruits and grains.



Did you know?

Feeding raw is easier with a mentor! Please check out the Pazuandfriends blog.

<https://pazuandfriends.blogspot.co>

Raw diets must be balanced.

Balanced raw diets contain whole prey, bones, organs, meat (including heart) and more. The general guideline is

10-15% Edible bone

75-80% Muscle meat (with heart)

10% Organs (half liver)



Bone provides essential calcium



Organs are nature's multivitamins



Muscle meat is the foundation



Fish balances fats

F
E
E
D
R
A
W



Treats and Supplements

Ferrets can benefit from some additions to their diet weekly.

If feeding **raw**-

1. 1-2 raw eggs whisked per ferret.
2. Organic or homemade bone broth (no seasonings).
3. Raw low mercury fish and shellfish 1-2 times weekly.

If feeding a **dry food**-

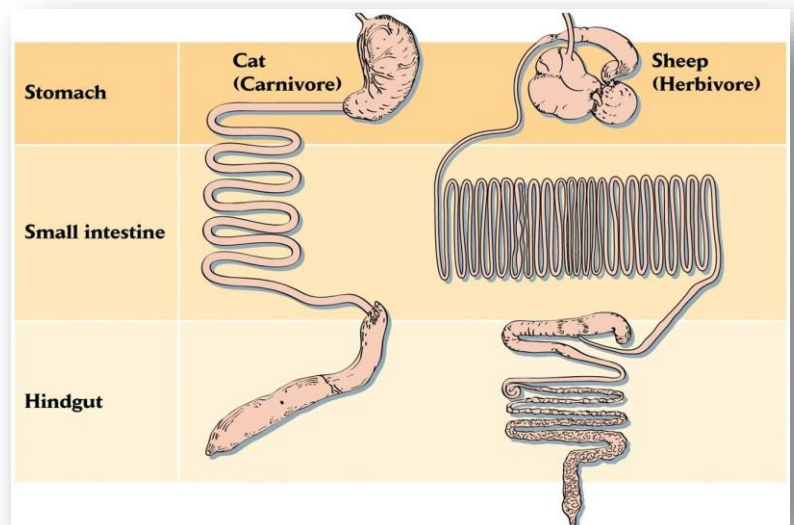
1. 1-2 raw eggs whisked per ferret.
2. Organic or homemade bone broth (no seasonings).
3. Always feed dry food in water.
4. Single ingredient animal heart treats for additional taurine.
5. Single ingredient fish treats for additional fatty acids.

If feeding **salmon oil** do not exceed 1/2tsp per ferret spread out over a week. Keep it in dark bottles, no pumps and in the fridge to prevent oxidation. [Read more here!](#)



Did you know?

Ferrets are more than capable of handling pathogenic bacteria from raw meat. They have specialized saliva, GI system length and digestion time all meant to make the consumption of raw meat safe.



Make Playtime Safer

Ferrets are very prone to *blockages*. Toys should not be left in their cage unsupervised.



Pictures by the Manitoba Ferret Association



Appropriate toys

- Cat teasers
- Plastic balls
- Hard plastic baby toys
- Toys with no stuffing
- Ping pong balls
- Tunnels
- Cat cubes

Inappropriate toys

- Rubber or foam toys
- Tennis balls
- Anything with loose parts

Ferrets make wonderful pets

They require a lot of time and patience; I don't recommend them as a pet for small or young children. I also strongly suggest having a stable income to afford the continuous bills that comes with owning ferrets.



I love my ferrets; I can't imagine my life without them. I hope they will positively impact your life as they have with mine.

-Pazuandfriends

