

PISCES

PET EMPORIUM

Ferret

Mustela putorius furo

Lifespan: 5 to 8 years.

Size: Mature males usually range from 1.5 to 2.5kg (3 to 5 lbs), while females only grow about 0.75 to 1.5kg (1.5 to 3 lbs).



Photo by Pisces Pet Emporium

Fixing & De-Scenting: Most Ferrets purchased from pet stores will be spayed/neutered and de-scented. If un-spayed, your female Ferret should come into heat at about 6 months old. You **MUST** make the decision to spay her or breed her **BEFORE** this time, or she will remain in heat until she gets bred. If she remains in heat, she will develop Aplastic Anemia and will eventually die. Neutering your male Ferret should make him calmer and friendlier.

Enclosure: Ferrets should be kept in a strong wire cage with soft flooring so it's easier on their paws. It should be a multi-level cage at least 14" x 24". The cage should have sleeping blankets or hammocks, and at least one corner litter box.

Heating: Ferrets are extremely susceptible to heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Avoid temperatures over 27 °C (80 °F).

Feeding: Pisces recommends feeding a dry food made specifically for Ferrets. They should also have fresh water at all times, preferably in a bottle, as most will play in their dishes. Do not give them milk or dairy products, as it can lead to diarrhea. ***Pisces recommends: Marshall Ferret Food.***

Vitamins, Supplements & Treats: Your Ferret will require an additional vitamin & mineral supplement. Mix a few drops in their food or a few drops alone as a preferred treat. Do not exceed more than the package daily requirements. ***Pisces recommends: 8in1 FerreTone Skin & Coat Supplement.***

Handling: When handling your Ferret, pick it up with one hand under the rump and the other around the middle. Picking it up or holding it improperly can permanently damage its spine.

Health Care: Ferrets can catch human cold and flu viruses, including Covid-19. Keep your pet away from drafts or family members that may be sick. Your Ferret should receive a yearly canine distemper and rabies vaccination. Upon adoption your ferret will need 1-2 distemper boosters, followed by their first Rabies vaccine at 16 weeks of age or later. At this first visit to the vet for their boosters, they should also be checked for ear mites and treated accordingly.

Grooming: Your Ferret can have baths, no more than once a week. Make sure you use a Ferret specific shampoo. Once a week you should also clean your Ferrets ears and clip the nails as needed. **Pisces recommends: Living World Ferret Shampoo.**

Exercise/Toys: When taking your Ferret for a walk outdoors, make sure you use a secure nylon leash attached to a well-adjusted harness. Supervised indoor exercise is great too. They love all kinds of toys, just make sure they cannot get fuzz or pieces off the toy, or it may cause health problems for your pet. Your house should be Ferret proofed, so they cannot get into any danger. A good idea is to have a bell collar on your Ferret while playing, that way you will always know where your Ferret is hiding. **Pisces recommends: Marshall's Ferret Collar with Bell.**

Safe Handling of Small Animals*: As with all living creatures, small animals can carry microorganisms which can make people ill. To reduce the chances of infection, always follow these safe handling steps:

- Always wash your hands thoroughly after you handle your pet, its food and anything it has touched.
- Keep your pet in a habitat designed for it; do not let your pet ferret roam around the home without proper supervision.
- Keep your pet, its food dishes and cage components out of the kitchen.
- Don't nuzzle or kiss your pet.
- Infants, children under 5 years of age, pregnant women, the elderly, and those with a compromised immune system have a greater risk of infection. Extra caution should be taken when they are in contact with any animal. Children under 5 should handle reptiles only under adult/parent supervision.

Recommended Books: This care sheet is designed to provide you with some basic information on your new pet. To learn more about how to care for your pet, **Pisces recommends: Ferrets, A complete owners manual, by Barron's Books.**

Recommended Supplies:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Large multi-level cage <input type="checkbox"/> Blankets & Hammocks <input type="checkbox"/> Ceramic food dish <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle <input type="checkbox"/> Marshall Ferret Food <input type="checkbox"/> Corner litter box | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Litter (Pisces recommends Yesterday's News for Ferrets) <input type="checkbox"/> Nail clippers & Styptic powder <input type="checkbox"/> Ear cleaner <input type="checkbox"/> Ferret shampoo <input type="checkbox"/> Collar, leash & harness <input type="checkbox"/> Toys!!! |
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Your New Pet: A Ferret is a friendly, social animal that will provide you with many years of enjoyment. It is the responsibility of any pet owner to provide their pet with regular veterinary care to maintain their pet's health and to prevent illness.

Should you experience any problems with your new pet, contact Pisces Pet Emporium. We will make every effort to assist you but we may refer you to a qualified veterinarian if the problem is beyond our ability to treat.

A pet is a large responsibility and should not be purchased without due consideration. Pets should never be released into the wild.



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**Safe handling information courtesy of PIJAC Canada*