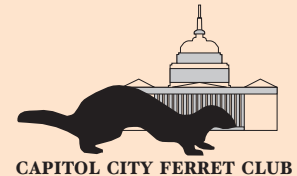


The Northern California Ferret

"To promote educated and active ferret guardianship..."



September 2001

A Trip to Alaska or was it Angel Island?!

July 14th was rapidly approaching and the Bay Area had been draped in unseasonable heat waves. All were looking forward to our adventure to Angel Island, meeting new friends, seeing

old friends and discussing our fuzzies.

Saturday arrived, overcast, cool, not REALLY cold. A bunch of us met at our house and headed for Jack London Square to get the ferry. We all were dressed in various stages of attire for the weather we might encounter. Arriving at Jack London Square, we met up with more of our friends also in various fashions. By this time the wind was up and the air turned cold. All of us were chatting back and forth checking out what everyone had brought and forgot (jackets, for one).

The ferry arrived... all on board... all still sort of looking optimistic. The ride was fun... seeing the Oakland Estuary and then out to the bay and off to San Francisco to hook up with the Angel Island ferry. The ride on the ferry, if you haven't been on it is quite fun seeing Alcatraz, going under the Bay Bridge, the seamist in your hair, and the seagulls flying all over.

Pat Lucey

We arrived at Angel Island, waited for others to arrive from other ferries, then off we went to get a place to set up camp. By this time it was COLD and those who wore shorts and t-shirts bought sweatshirts at the local gift shop.

The island has quite a history and you can pick it up on the web if you are interested at:

<http://www.angelisland.com>

A few things one can do while on the island is hike, bring or rent a bike, and go on guided tours. Some sat around and talked and shivered while others took off for walks on the beach or up the myriad of hiking trails. The island was crowded and lots of boats were docked at the cove.

Needless to say everyone was cold and I think a little cranky. For me it was like going camping. Margaret got the great idea of making a fire in the barbecue next to us. So, off she went to gather briquettes from

other barbecues, twigs, paper, and pine cones. A lot of us got involved in gathering flammable items to heat our domain. Some of us had lighters (thank goodness some of us still smoke) and we tried to get a fire going. Finally, success: a fire and a lot of smoke! There was a gathering of the frozen fuzzy owners (the ferrets had sense enough to stay home where it was warm).

Some of us took a hike to the other side of the island and the views are out of this world, seeing Tiburon, Sausalito, the Golden Gate Bridge shrouded in fog, and the forts and out-buildings along the way.

By the time we got back everyone was packing to catch the ferry home. I personally think it was a tad bit warmer on the trip back, but I guess I was hoping for it to be.

All in all it was a fun time had by all and one day I don't think we will forget soon. It was suggested that

Continued on page 2

In this issue:

Family Pet Expo
Ferrets on Bikes
Oregon Ferret Show
Picnic Photos
Save on ferret meds
SB-1093 Update
Tupperware for Ferrets

GSFS Page
Bay Area LOS Page
Capitol City Page

Rainbow Bridge

The Crafty Ferret

Ferret it Out

Medical Department

The Northern California Ferret

Continued from page 1

we have one in January when the weather is warmer. Could happen who knows. I do hope that all of you who did go had a good time and told your fuzzes all about it. we build a fire in our fire-place to thaw out a little and watched TV.



We're Freezing!



Man, it's cold!



View from our picnic site

The Northern California

September 2001
Issue #6

The Northern California Ferret is published bi-monthly by Golden State Ferret Society, Capitol City Ferret Club, and Bay Area Legion of Superferrets. The Northern California Ferret is a copyright publication. Reprinting an article within The Northern California Ferret is permitted but must be reprinted in entirety, including credit to The Northern California Ferret.

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Tiburon Ferry



Ah! Heat!!



You did what?!



Camp Reynolds
West Garrison



5 more miles?
Right!



Here's to
Fish & Game!



Ayala Cove



Senior Advisor



Ferret Chat



That big? Yeah,
right!



Bit me right here!



I mix it into their
litter

Death of Another Ferret Bill

Lee Donehower

On July 14, the Assembly Appropriations Committee effectively gutted SB-1093. The bill no longer contains any language that would legalize any ferrets in California. What is left of the bill is an appropriation "of \$250,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Fish and Game for the purpose of preparing an environmental impact report... to determine whether or not to remove the domestic ferret... from the list of prohibited species."

To add insult to injury, the vote required to pass the amended bill was changed from a simple majority to 2/3, virtually insuring the bill's demise.

Californians for Ferret Legalization (CFL) insists that the key to getting a ferret bill successfully through the California Legislature and signed by the governor lies with inspiring huge numbers of California ferret enthusiasts to engage in a letter writing campaign to their respective representatives.

A simple analysis of the numbers would indicate otherwise:

there are only 150 people we can expect to count on

It is estimated that there are approximately 500,000 ferrets in California. That number is most likely inflated. Even so, most ferret owners have more than one ferret. Being conservative, let's say there are 1.5 ferrets per household. That leaves 333,333 ferret households.

Americans generally take their pets for granted as simply a private part of their household and less than 2% join organizations dedicated to their pets. Let's give the ferret owners the benefit of the doubt and say 2-1/2% join ferret organizations. That leaves 8,333 members in California.

In today's society, no more than 12% of membership roles actually attend meetings or otherwise participate in

the organization. We're now down to 1,000 active ferret folks in California.

Among active members, only 15% are pro-active, that is, the ones who totally dedicate themselves in time and effort to the organization's goals.

In other words, for 500,000 ferrets in California, there are only 150 people we can expect to count on.

who's really pulling the strings... and [what's] their motivation?

folks have the time or the desire to dedicate themselves to a single issue. Direct negative impact and outrage are the only two aspects of any issue that will stir the masses to action.

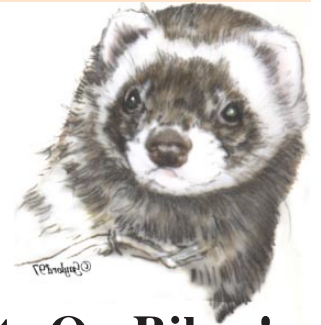
There is no direct negative impact on any citizen regardless of the outcome of any ferret bill; ferret owners are accustomed to their pets being illegal.

Clearly the opposition is impacted by ferrets becoming legal pets and I think it is fair to assume that the impact is economical, not environmental.

The ferret lobby has consistently debunked every environmental issued raised by Fish & Game, the Audubon Society, et.al. In the political arena, the only rationale left for the opposition is political expediency.

So, who would be economically impacted by ferret legalization in a negative way? You may recall that 2 years ago, Marshall Farms filed suit in California to overturn the ferret ban: big guns with a huge economic incentive. They lost the case!

So we're looking for an entity with even deeper pockets than the world's largest ferret breeder. Discover who's really pulling the strings in opposition and their motivation for doing so. Only then will we be able to mount an effective campaign to legalize ferrets.



Ferrets On Bikes!

Jeanne Carley

Our signature count is now at 28,000 plus. I know there are some of you out there that have some large numbers and it would help if you could send in what you have so we can count and bundle them. Keep collecting these until August 29th or so but please get them to me by August 31st so I can make a final count.

On Wednesday Sept. 5th two dedicated friends and ferret fans and I (both are triathletes so I'll be in the rear) are going to bike the petitions symbolically (the petitions are going to be in a truck) to Sacramento from the East bay. I don't know how far that is, I'm afraid to look on a map, but I've been trying to train for this ride during the summer.

I haven't ever ridden that far by miles, and I don't even own a road bike. I have a crossroads-type bike, but it's a really, really nice one and since it's flat once you get past the East Bay hills (I hope) and I've been riding in the hills here, I think I should make it ok (I hope!).

We'll publish the route and our starting point and estimated arrival time at Sacramento and at key destinations say 30, 20, and 10 miles outside Sacramento in case any ferret fans want to bike in with us. Or, you might be a whiz bicyclist and want to join from the beginning. If so, just let me know!

Editor's Note: a map of the route is available in Acrobat format by emailing your request to: LOSSF@aol.com

Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)

Rene Gandolfi, DVM

The headlines read, "THERE'S A BUG GOING AROUND!" You see ferrets suddenly have gastro-intestinal problems, vomiting or diarrhea, and immediately everyone thinks it must be some new terrible virus that's just been released into the area.

While there are viral (and bacterial) causes of intestinal disease in ferrets, much of what we are seeing is in fact *Inflammatory Bowel Disease* (IBD), a chronic inflammatory disorder of the stomach and intestines. Based on observations in clinical studies by a number of "ferret" vets, IBD is very prevalent in this species.

In an article just published in the AFA's *American Ferret Report*, Dr. Mark Burgess reports that two forms of IBD exist: one (eosinophilic gastroenteritis) is uncommon but manifests as severe disease. The other form of inflammatory bowel disease, lymphoplasmacytic gastroenteritis is very common. In the article he states, "Due in part to its subtle nature (many cases have no outward signs), this form of IBD has been seriously overlooked. Additionally, many cases of IBD have been misdiagnosed as corona virus (ECE) or *Helicobacter* infections, thus delaying recognition of IBD in ferrets."

Summarizing Dr. Burgess' article, IBD results from chronic stimulation of the immune system in the digestive tract where there is damage to the stomach and bowel linings. The liver becomes involved with secondary inflammation (ascending hepatitis) or from primary bacterial infection arising in the intestines. The exact cause of IBD is unknown. Food allergy is thought to be the most common inciting agent, with other possibilities being viral or parasitic infections. On a microscopic level, the disease resembles IBD of cats, dogs, and humans. The causes of IBD in all of these species are a subject of debate. In any event, not knowing the exact cause does not stop us from treating it, thereby saving lives.

IBD can be difficult to recognize, as even severe cases may exhibit no obvious signs until the disease is very advanced. Early signs are "inconsistent" stools varying from firm to mucoid or greenish or tarry. This may be mild and chronic, or the pet may suddenly have episodes of severe greenish to brown diarrhea and act quite ill. Sudden severe signs often are due to bacterial overgrowth in the bowel (bacteria take advantage of diseased bowels and overgrow, causing diarrhea and nausea). Antibiotics are used to treat the bacterial overgrowth but the underlying IBD is still active, and signs may reoccur later. Some pets are chronically thin and bony but seem active. Some show signs of nausea such as tooth grinding or pawing at the mouth.

Food allergy...most common inciting agent

IBD causes inflammation leading to stomach and bowel damage. If the damage is severe enough the ferret will experience weight loss and poor digestion. The liver often becomes inflamed too. Dr. Burgess feels that most hepatitis in ferrets is due to IBD. The inflammation may also ascend up the esophagus; in his opinion at least some megaesophagous cases in ferrets are directly linked to IBD. Inflammation may slow stomach contractions and delay emptying leading to hairballs retained in the stomachs of ferrets with IBD. Most importantly, IBD seems to cause most of the GI lymphomas seen in his ferret patients. The lymph nodes surrounding the diseased stomach and bowel become inflamed and enlarged. Given time, many cases develop cancer (lymphoma) in these nodes. At this point the condition is usually fatal.

Dr. Burgess has been performing GI biopsy and histopathology on many of his cases (including adrenal, insulinoma, as well as the intestinal cases). He states, "It [IBD] is the most common severe disease of ferrets seen in our practice." Based on these results

he claims that 30 to 50% of his patients with adrenal disease or insulinomas also have IBD. "In addition, we feel that the IBD is often a contributing factor to some of the signs the patient is exhibiting (such as weight loss and hypoglycemia)."

Certain laboratory tests may indicate the presence of IBD. Elevated serum lipase indicates gastritis in ferrets (amylase should be normal in these cases.) Elevated globulin (over 3.0 g/dl) indicates an inflammatory response. Elevated ALT (not AST) indicates hepatitis. Biopsy and microscopic examination is needed for exact confirmation of IBD including the severity, and which variety of IBD is present. In order to get good samples of the intestines and lymph nodes, surgery is required. An endoscope does not allow sampling of the lymph nodes or the small intestine. Evaluation of the biopsy samples is a combination of science and art. The samples are often very small pieces of the lining of the intestine. Proper diagnosis requires that a very experienced "exotics" pathologist read the pathology samples. The veterinarian and the pathologist must work together to arrive at an appropriate diagnosis and case management.

Anti-inflammatory drugs are currently the best treatment. Imuran® (Aziathioprine) produces the best control with fewest side effects. Prednisone may be used but has side effects over many months, and some animals do poorly on it, especially if hepatitis is present. Hypoallergenic diets such as Hill's Z/D® feline may help if food allergy is a cause of the IBD. Chronic and lifelong treatment is usually necessary.

Dr. Burgess warns ferret owners and veterinarians to remember that this disease is often not outwardly impressive; ferrets often seem normal for a long time. But many will die of lymphoma or other complications if not treated. "As long as cancer isn't already present, we want to prevent it by using medications. IBD does not have to kill!"

The Northern California Ferret

Rainbow Bridge

Ferreting Out the Oregon Trail

Freedom at the Grand Ferret Frolic!

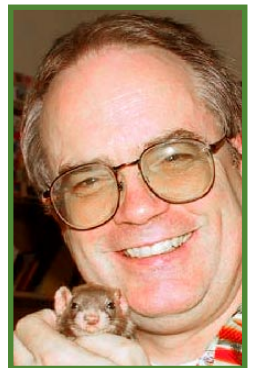
Debbie G.
Capitol City Ferret Club



Fun, sun and lotsa ferrets – also playing in the sun – frolicked and dooked at the Grand Ferret Frolic during August in Oregon. Two of California's masked outlaws also made the trek to the end of the Oregon Trail to join in the festivities.

'Tiara' and 'Daisy Warrior Princess' (a.k.a. "Mousie") enjoyed a weekend of freedom, walking in the park's green grass on a leash & harness.

The high point of the trip for the 'bipedal' guests was the opportunity to meet Bob Church (internationally known ferret expert and Osteologist, or bone specialist). We attended the ferret club meeting on Saturday evening, and listened to an informative and



Bob Church

Stinkers

Stinkers, has been a member of "GRANDMA'S" household and part of the ALL BOYS GROUP for seven years now. He came to her as a lost ferret wondering around in the cauliflower field. He has been the healthiest ferret in this group, has never been sick a day in his life, not even a cold. His passing was one of the worst ways a ferret could leave this world.

There are different ways a ferret could cross over. When a ferret dies in his sleep is the most peaceful way for them when they go this way. Its usually the very old ones that go this way. But the hardest for me is having to help them cross over. It's when you have to make the choice when enough is enough.

A ferret with cardiomyopathy is an example. Here you have a ferret that will never get better; there is no cure for this. You can prolong his/her crossing with meds, but when the meds don't work any more, he will suffer. I've seen some owners wait way too long before making the choice.

Another one is insulinoma; with this disease you never know when they will have a seizure. I've seen what happens to a ferret when he has a seizure and he's in his cage. When they take longer than 30 minutes to come out of it after the Karo syrup, I will put this critter down.

And then there is the ferret who for some unknown reason will scream at the top of his lungs. You can't get to a vet fast enough. It's times like this you beg them to cross over so they don't have to suffer anymore. When your ferret passes over this way, he doesn't even know you are there. This is the way our Stinkers passed and he was never sick a day in his life. We miss you Stinkers.

Margaret & Grand-Ma



Ahssikahn

The night sky is one star brighter, as it lights the way for Kahn as he dances across the Rainbow Bridge...

Kahn was a very elegant gentleman in his ferrety ways. He was the 'Fred Astaire' of the ferret world – light of foot & very polite, and quite the lady's man. Kahn is missed by his special lady, "Miyahpaws" (or PawPaws as she's known to friends).

Lissa: 1993-2001

This was my Mississippi's mom who had cross over after a long illness. She was owned by Fred & Susie Bloomingdale of Texas. She

also leaves behind a litter sister SHAMORA and a brother MR.B. both from California.

Susie Bloomingdale



Continued on page 9

The Northern California Ferret

Golden State Ferret Society

Lyon's Restaurant went out of business so Golden State Ferret Society has had to find yet another new meeting place. Our August 7th meeting was held at "Hayward Ranch" Restaurant. We were allowed to use the banquet room with no obligation to buy anything. You will probably want to order dinner, because the food is good. It can be found at that busy intersection in Hayward where Mission Blvd meets Foothill Blvd meets Jackson St. Look for the Bull wearing a jeweled crown.

If you haven't gotten your strawberry jam yet, don't worry, we still have some for sale and it's goood!

GSFS has been very busy with our petition drive. Here's a recent tally - Julie, Kimberly, and Lili hung out with the chickens at the Alameda County Fair and collected 160 signatures. Margaret, Raven and Marian collected over 500 signatures at the Fremont Art & Wine Festival. Lisa collected over 100 signatures at the PetCo in her home town of Vallejo. Debby, our double agent, collected over over 500 signatures at the Roseville PetCo.



Golden State Ferret
SOCIETY

Contact Info:

Margaret W., President
GSFerretsociety@aol.com
(510)869-9755 pager

Lili P., Vice-President
pocha@aol.com
(650)570-3730 pager

Mailing address:

PO Box 2856
Fremont, CA 94536-0856

Meeting dates:

1st Tuesday of each month, 7pm

Location:

Hayward Ranch Restaurant
22877 Mission Boulevard
Hayward, CA 94541
(510) 537-5522

 **Madison Avenue**
Veterinary Clinic, Inc.

Richard W. Slevin, DVM



8520 Madison Avenue
Fair Oaks, CA 95628
(916) 961-1541

Grovelay Veterinary Hospital

Russ Hackler, DVM

2423 Grovelay Boulevard
Castro Valley, CA 94546
Weekdays: 9-6 Weekends: 8-2

(510) 581-6629

GSFS Ferret of the Month

Mississippi's birthday is June 11, 1995. She loves to lick and clean my ears and she won't quit until she gets her peanut butter and jelly sandwich... her favorite. Her favorite toy is "me" and when she wants to play and I don't, she looks up at me with her nose and tail in the air and takes a you-know-what! Mississippi was named after the state she was born in.



The Crafty Ferret

Aunt
Maudie



Glass Decoupage Plates

Do you love your ferrets? I love mine. I found a way to show off my kids without them even being there. Here's how.

First you get a clear glass plate (try thrift stores, specialty stores who deal with dishes and glassware, or Walmart), wash and dry it. Find a favorite photo of your ferret. Copy and crop it to show them off at their best.

Paint the BACK center of the plate with decoupage glue using a sponge brush. Place the photo face down on the plate and cover the whole back of the plate, including the back of the photo. Let the plate dry for a couple of hours. Choose a color acrylic paint or even gold leaf and paint the entire back of the plate.

After all is dried, clear-coat the plate to protect.

You can hang these plates on your

walls, use them as serving plates, or give them as gifts.

Warning! These plates are not for eating off; you can use them to dress up your dining table for dinner parties as decorative chargers for salad plates/bowls. They are *not* dishwasher or dishwasher safe (you painted the back, remember?); use a wet sponge or dishcloth to clean the top surface.

Other ways to decorate your plate: use rubber stamps of ferret paw prints or silhouettes around the edge of the plate. Or, use a favorite fabric, cut to the size of the plate, and cover the entire back of the plate over your photo and decoupage and seal the same way.

On the example I have shown here,

What you need:

Glass (clear) plate: any size
\$1.99-\$5.00/plate

or Clear plastic plates, 10-1/4",
18/pkg. \$11.59

Decoupage glue, \$3.00

foam brush, 75¢

regular asst. size brushes

Assorted acrylic paints, 79¢ -
\$2.00/bottle

clear sealer, \$4.79/spraycan
a favorite photo of your ferret,
priceless!

I used a plastic plate. You can hardly tell the difference in the photo. This is a quick & inexpensive way to do a dinner table or a picnic; just throw away after the event.

This is a fun project and only takes a few hours to do a large quantity for a quick party or gifts.



The Northern California Ferret

Capitol City Ferret Club

CCFC Page



CAPITOL CITY FERRET CLUB

Meetings:

Capitol City Ferret Club
Lyons Restaurant
2495 Watt Ave in Sacramento (at
the corner of Watt & El Camino
Avenues)

Meetings are usually the 3rd
Tuesday of each month: September
18th, October 16th.

Time: 7 pm

Contact info for CCFC:

1-800-590-7932

WeazelLuv@aol.com

Address:

PO Box 162423

Sacramento, CA 95816-2423

Officers:

President: Debby G.

V-President: Lee C.

Treasurer: George B.

Secretary: Sandy L.

Fundraiser Coordinator: Gerri S.



Sacramento

September 21-23, 2001

Cal Expo Center
Home of the California State Fair
1600 Exposition Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95815

WHEN:

Friday, September 21st - 10:00 a.m.
to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 22nd - 9:00
a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 23rd - 9:00 a.m.
to 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: CAL EXPO - CALIFORNIA STATE FAIRGROUNDS

1600 Exhibition Blvd.

Sacramento, California

We need Volunteers to assist at the
Capitol City Ferret Club pet
information booth. Please contact
"WeazelLuv@aol.com" or phone 1-800-
590-7932.



*Tiara & Lisa relax at the Oregon
Grand Ferret Frolic
see related article on pages 5 & 9*



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Small, Large, & Exotic Animal Medicine & Surgery

Full Service Mobile Veterinary Hospital on Wheels

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Diagnostics

916-989-0PET (0738)

Weekdays 9-6 Weekends 10-2

Here's Manji...

*Capitol City Ferret Club's
"PlayFerret" of the Month.*

He's mellow, cute and cuddly.

His "turn-ons" are Häagen Dazs ice
cream, rummaging through the
drawers and raisins. His "turn-offs" are
baths, nap time and staying out of the
drawers.

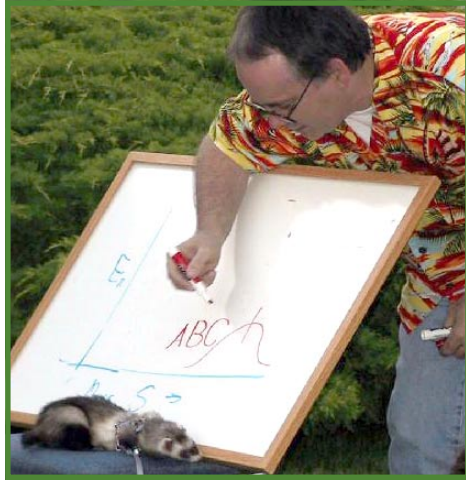
He's a monster, he's *Speed ferret.*



The Northern California Ferret

Continued from page 5

enlightening lecture about the origins of the ferret, and its peculiarities as a domesticated pet. We also learned quite a bit about "Poopology", and how



Bob Church interrupted with a question

our fuzzy friends use it as their 'calling card' and why they set up 'boundaries'.

On Sunday we attended the Frolic. There were ferret competitions: the 4 Yard Dash, the Agility Course, the High Stretch and the Longest/Shortest Tail contests. There was the Circus Theme Costume Contest: the participating ferrets were attired as their favorite circus character. There was the guest speaker: Bob Church speaking about ferret domestication.



So many beautiful ferrets!

Ferret it Out

Dianna

Hello everyone. Another month and a couple more web sites for you to check out. I looked at this site, <http://www.geocities.com/russiansmom/drstevenson.html> and although it was sort of technical, it did have some good information. It also has a link back to White Russian's web site. White Russian's site is updated regularly so it should be visited every now and then for the new information. There is also a link to enter the raffle for a beautiful handmade afghan to benefit A.D.V. research.

Well, it's 2 hours later and I think I have found an interesting site for all of you to check out. It is <http://www.dookranch.com/>

www.dookranch.com/ I went there and read the *Ferret Prayer*, then I went to their Guest Book and filled that out. I sent the message, and low and behold in about 5 min. I received a message back from Mike. This site is updated frequently and the *Photo of the Week* is updated every Saturday. There are links to other sites (That's why it's 2 hrs. later. I followed several of the links and each one had something interesting to read.) The thing that kept me coming back to Dookranch is the *Ferret Prayer*. I think this prayer should be given to every person who buys or adopts a ferret.

Dooks and happy wardancing for this month.

Ferret it Out Past Picks

www.ferretcentral.org

<http://users.1st.net/hammock/ferrets/bhor/gravy.htm>

www.miamiferret.org

<http://www.geocities.com/russiansmom/index.html>

<http://www.ferretrealm.com/>

<http://www.geocities.com/ferretlover96/ferrets/gravy-bob.html>

<http://www.ultimatetopsites.com/general/FuzzieDad/index2.html>

www.TheFerretstore.com

And best of all, there was the Auction with a genuine auctioneer. Lots of goodies for ferrets and ferret admirers alike, with proceeds benefiting shelters that house orphaned ferrets and to help pay for ferret medical bills in the Pacific Northwest.

Tiara caught a midmorning nap before heading back into the seclusion of her carrier for the trip homeward the next day – dreaming of new friends from other western states. The rest of us dreamed of one day being able to hold a 'Ferret Frolic' in our own neighborhood park, of no longer

having to hide behind the mask of illegal status. Maybe next year...



The Northern California Ferret

Bay Area Legion of Superferrets



Bay Area Legion Of Superferrets
P.O. box 5608
Berkeley, CA 94705

Phone: (510) 553-0100
(510) 430-0231

Email: LOS SF@aol.com

Bay Area Legion of Superferrets was formed in 1996 as a local chapter of a national organization. LOS National has established standards for the care, keeping, and rescuing of domestic ferrets as well as judging standards for ferret shows. The national organization has a network of ferret shelters throughout the United States and Japan which are held to exacting standards for the benefit of the ferrets.

Since ferrets are still illegal in California, the Bay Area chapter's goal is to be a reliable information resource for caregivers in this state via the use of informational pamphlets, a bi-monthly national magazine, and a bi-monthly local newsletter. In addition, the club holds monthly meetings to provide member caregivers the opportunity to network with others.

New uses for Tupperware

Not too long ago my family and I became victims of Ferret Math. We already had a wonderful set of two (Dillinger and Denise), but thought three would be even better. Margaret introduced us to a charming, furry, inquisitive-to-a-fault, little lady that we named Satchel. Satchel's arrival turned our household inside out.

One of the first things we learned is that this little charmer doesn't want to take a backseat to anyone. She wanted to be the dominant fuzzy. This didn't go well with Dillinger, who previously held this position. The blood, screaming, fighting, and twisting was unbelievable. I immediately realized that, at least for the time being, separate cages and playtimes were in order.

Satchel was ensconced in the smaller condo and outfitted with all the comforts when not exploring my bedroom, office area, and briefcase. She had water, food dishes, and a very soft hammock. It wasn't long before I noticed her hammock was becoming a shredded piece of material barely hanging on the cage. Satchel, in her wisdom, had decided to augment her food with a diet of bedding. I knew this was going to be a recipe for

disaster, removed the shredded bedding, and tried to think of an acceptable alternative for sleeping.

While getting groceries I found myself in the Tupperware aisle where the solution came to me. The six-cup food saver was the perfect size for my furry predator and, even better, it was on sale for 99¢. (People with ferrets can't afford lavish spending since we must save to send our vets on exotic vacations.) I purchased this item and couldn't wait to get it home for a trial run.

She loved it and it does fit perfectly. My daughter was horrified I would put "her" ferret in a common food saver. I have actually found Tupperware works well for bathroom facilities also. The standard size pet trays left spaces along the side where someone could back in and do their business without putting a foot in the proper area. I took one of the larger sized Tupperware, cut and sanded an entrance, and put that in the cage. It works!

We have almost no messes except where they are supposed to be. I had thought about writing an endorsement letter to Tupperware telling them how useful I found their products but somehow I don't think they would consider it a complement.

EMERGENCY ROOTER

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The Northern California Ferret

Bay Area Legion of Superferrets

LOS in action What Do I Do?



I acquired a ferret in November of last year. She was 2yrs old. Living in a 1' by 2' cage. I was installing cable modem service at the lady's house and noticed the horrible condition the ferrets living space was. I asked if I could see it. The lady said sure that in fact I could have it. It was her sisters ferret and had been left there a year and a half ago for petsitting and never picked back up. I asked the lady how the ferret was with her dog and she said she was great. I know nothing about ferrets or there care but love animals and felt really bad about her condition. So I took her home and replaced her cage and bed and food and water bottle slowly one at a time. She hated the new cage at first but now loves it.

The problem is I really need her and my dogs to co-exist. I have had her for a while now and have slowly introduced the dogs to her. They are all large terrier breed and have taken a lot of training to not want to eat the

ferret. Eight months of daily work to teach them she is part of the family. Now that they are used to her and do not see her as something to chase or eat I have tried to let them in the same room. The dogs are great. The ferret however is another story. She see's the dogs and goes straight for them and grabs onto whatever she can (lip, leg, toenail, tail) and will not let go. So this breaks the dogs trust issues with me and frustrates me since I do not know how to resolve it. I work ten hour days and need to be able to have everyone get along. I can not put her in one room and them in another because then I have to choose who gets attention.

So long story short. I need to either find a way to break her of the habit of being mean. Or I need to find her a home where she does not have the dogs to conflict with. I will readily admit that maybe I took on more than I can handle without educating myself more on ferrets but nonetheless she

Castro Valley Companion Animal Hospital

René Gandolfi, DVM

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is much happier and healthier here than she was in her previous home. She is a darling, very independent until she is tired then she wants to cuddle. I really enjoy her but have to find a solution. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Not that it is relevant but Gizmo is her name.

Thank you so much
zoe

Editor's note: This story is typical of the inquiries we receive each month. Zoe & Gizmo attended the August Bay Area LOS meeting where Gizmo was treated to an ear cleaning and manicure.

Zoe also learned that Gizmo's Weasel War Dance means she's happy, not upset.

Email The Northern California Ferret to a friend!



Mousie takes a stroll at the Oregon Grand Ferret Frolic see related article on pages 5 & 9



All About Pets

Lynda K. Zucca, DVM

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The Northern California Ferret

Save on Meds

And save yourself a trip to the vet in the process

Those of you who use Advantage® for flea and tick control on your ferrets know that it the package contains four plastic vials. The product comes in a variety packages, depending on the weight and type of animal (dog or cat). Since Advantage® is not marketed directly for ferrets, vets recommend a dosage of .25cc for ferrets, administered with a needleless syringe between the neck and shoulder blades.

What most folks don't realize is that only the quantity of medication in the vials varies; the concentration and price remains the same. The manufacturer, Bayer, markets the identical product in six different packages: four for dogs and two for cats. Even the smallest vials contain more than the .25cc dose for ferrets.

So, if the cost is the same, the medication is the same, and the dose is the same, it just makes sense to buy the largest vials available (55-100 pound dogs, blue label) and store the leftover amounts in a sealable container.

Hate having to go to your vet or Petco every time you need a refill? Try 1-888-Pet Meds (1-888-738-6337) via phone or at their website:

<http://www.1888petmeds.com/>

I recently ordered the blue package for 55-100 pound dogs for \$34.95 + \$5.99 shipping (\$40.94) on Tuesday and it arrived at my door on Friday. One vial contained enough Advantage® to administer to four ferrets and three cats! And, of course, we have three vials left for the next time.

Frontline® is also available as are a variety of other prescription and non-prescription pet medications.

Upcoming Events...

GSFS Meeting

1st. Tues. of the month

7:00 pm
Hayward Ranch Restaurant
22877 Mission Boulevard
Hayward, CA 94541
(510) 537-5522



Bay Area LOS Meeting

*2nd. Sun. of the month
(next meeting: September 9th)*

12:00 Noon
Lyons Restaurant
East 14th & Davis Streets
San Leandro, CA
(510) 553-0100

CCFC Meeting

3rd Tues. of the month (April thru Sept.)

7pm
Lyons Restaurant
2495 Watt Ave in Sacramento



America's Family Pet Expo

*September 21-23
Cal Expo Center, Sacramento*



The Stationary Ferret

Linda Gaylord, artist

Ferret Clipart

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