

FOOD AND WATER AREA

Ferrets need food and water available at all times. I Should mention that ferrets love to play. With that said, you might wish to purchase a small corner litter pan to use as a food bin. Drill holes into the back two sided and attach to the cage using a small bungee cord or gardening wire. You see, ferrets love to find the best piece of kibble in the bowl. Typically, the best piece is on the bottom. Yes, the rest of the food is pushed to the other corner to find the best piece. A ferrets jaw is shaped different from a cat or dog, as it is narrower and we have trouble scooping up in a round bowl. We dive into the middle and take a mouthful somewhere else to scoop it up. Or throw it all over the floor and pick it up against something. The corners fit our jaw better. The other advantage is it is large enough for more than one ferret. The bowl/pan should be cleaned weekly. Of course, there are other food containers such as ceramic weighted bowls and Croek lock bowls. They are sold in pet stores.

We like water bowls better than bottles but will use either. The bowls often become a source of entertainment. We love to dunk our faces and dig in the water. We like licking it off the floor also. Due to our sensitive little tummies, whether you choose a bottle or bowl, it requires daily cleaning and filling. If using a bottle, glass bottles are easier to clean, as you can wash them in the dishwasher. They do not have a funny taste after several months of use like the plastic ones.



The Educated Ferret Association 43 N. Main Street, Apt 1. South Hadley, MA 01075-2782 (413) 538-7108

Please check one: ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal Membership ☐ Update

Names or Names: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail address: _____

The Educated Ferret Association issues an annual Membership Directory to Membership Only.

Do you wish to be listed in this directory?
☐ Yes ☐ No

I/We currently have _____ ferret(s). At least one ferret has been part of our family since _____.

Enclosed is my/our membership fee at the level of support indicated below, and given in the knowledge that it, will be wisely used in the mission of the Educated Ferret Association.

Levels of Support:

☐ Friend (Individual) \$15 ☐ Family \$30

☐ Sponsor \$50 ☐ Patron \$75

☐ Benefactor \$250 ☐ Angel \$300 & up

☐ Corporate Membership (Sponsor or above) _____

Name of Business: _____

Type of Business: _____

I/We want to volunteer my/our time to the following Educated Ferretted Association as follows: _____

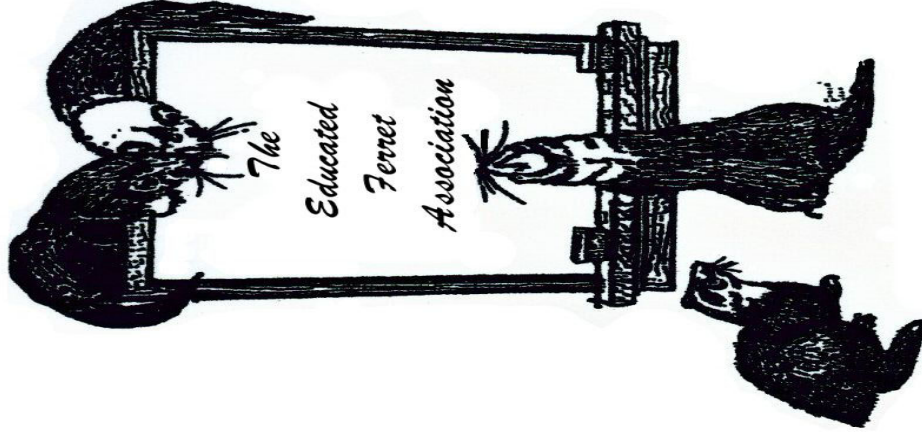
Your membership is valid for one year from date of issue, and includes special offers on ferret related items from other businesses and organizations as well as your subscription to our newsletter.

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Amount Received & Level of Support: _____

Member Number: _____ Valid From: _____

Cage & Bedding



E-MAIL US: educatedferret@aol.com

Or visit our website:

<http://www.theeducatedferret.net>

Donna Spiritio ~ Rescue Director

Written and Distributed by

The Educated Ferret Association

A 501 c3 Not For Profit Association

Copyright: 2004, 2005, 2006

CAGE AND BEDDING

Aquariums, guinea pig, rabbit, rodent, and birdcages are not suitable living quarters for your ferret. Aquariums do not allow sufficient airflow causing bacteria to collect. The other mention enclosures are frequently too small and not made specifically for us. Wire floors hurt our feet and cause medical problems. However, there area some rabbit cages that can be altered to suit our physical and emotional needs. Like your home, we need four areas in our cages. We need an area for sleeping, an area for eating, an area for playing, and of course a potty area. It is usually best to arrange our cage in the above order (top to bottom). We appreciate our food being on the level above our potty area, for obvious reasons.

SLEEP AREA

Wood Bedding of any kind, is not safe for ferrets. A large sheet or blanket can be clipped to the corners of the cage floor. This will keep our little feet off the wire and can be easily washed. Weekly cleaning of both the bedding and cage will help minimize any odor.

Now remember, not only are we your pampered babies, we are also tunneling creatures. Therefore, the more, soft bedding there is the happier we are. If we are cold, we can crawl between the layers. If we are hot, we can lay on the top. We love to play amongst the layers of soft bedding. Most shelters sell ferret-safe hammocks, tents, sleep sacks, and other sleep items as a method of fundraising.

As I stated above, our bedding needs to be cleaned weekly. However, during shedding season or multiferret homes, bedding should be cleaned minimally twice a week. Excessive hair in our bedding can contribute to our developing a hairball. Bedding should be monitored for holes, and/or damage. We can get our little nails caught in them. Some of us may even eat bedding when we are stressed. Natural fibers such as wool, which comes from an animal might smell like a meal. Cotton and flax smell sweet and we love sweet things. So check bedding weekly. If you have a hunch we have eaten bedding, monitor our poops and Petromalt is required. We poop every four hours so no poop, a vet visit is required. We really love polar fleece and flannel materials, HINT, HINT!

PLAY AREA

Some of the things we eat or play with can be very dangerous for us. You as our humans need to be diligent about what we are able to get into. OK, OK we are like toddlers without the noise, sometimes. Latex has a sweet smell to it and we love sweet stuff. Such an emergency would require a trip to your ferret knowledgeable vet. Our teeth can get caught in toy balls with thick outer shells. Rubber balls, "super balls", foam balls, foam filled balls, and "Nurf" balls are all very dangerous toys for us. Toys with removable parts can be chewed and/or broken into many small pieces that could be swallowed. Other object to be aware of include: Barbie shoes, elastic bands, small bells, erasers, small plastic pieces, Legos, and T.V. remote controls. A good rule of thumb is: If you would not leave it out or give it to a human child then it is definitely not appropriate for us.

Oh, I almost forgot, if you are missing objects like socks, wallets, or keys, I suggest you search our favorite hidey holes. We love to snatch stuff when you're not looking. You see we are putting you away when we steal your personal belongings.

POOP AREA

For obvious gravitational reason, please use the bottom of our cages as our potty area. A plastic bottom or covered wire bottom cage under our poop pan is preferable for easy cleanup and sanitization. There area special ferret poop pans that have higher sides than the front. We like to back right up into the corner to poop in privacy.

Now, don't be shocked when you see us dragging our cute little bottoms across the floor. We like to clean our bottoms as much as you do however, we don't have the luxury of "Cottonelle". A piece of floor covering can be purchased at a flooring store to cover wire bottom cages so cleaning will be easier.

Other options for poop pans are dishpans, cat litter pans, and such. Just remember that we are short to the ground and require a low poop pan access. Drilling holes in the sides will give you a way to attach them to the cages. We love to move them. Also please sand the front area where you cut it down.

As for litter, there are several options available. Pet stores sell recycled newspaper pellets and shredded recycled newspaper. Feed and grain stores sell a product called "Woody Pet" which simply is crushed pellet stove pellets, however we do not recommend them. Once wet, the pellets turn into sawdust. It is harder to clean and can promote bacteria growth if not cleaned regularly. Clay litter is not recommended, it is dusty, can cause infections, and is tracked throughout our living space. Remember, we are tunneling animals so the litter encourages us to dig and play in it. The clay litter gets into our eyes and ears, and dries out our fur. Clumping litter is dangerous to a ferret. This litter can stick to our private area that are wet after peeing which can cause infection. It can stick to our noses and mouths if we had just drank or played in our water bowls. This will cause a very bad infection.

Our shelter mom prefers to use newspaper. She just rolls it up and throws it in a plastic grocery bag. I usually like to help tie it up at the end of the day. The papers are easy to clean. Also is the most cost effective method, usually Free or the daily price. Our local paper donates the unrecirculated papers left from the previous week. There are two drawbacks. The little black paw prints left on your floor need to be washed once a week. The other is do not use papers if donated by someone that has had a virus. Humans and ferrets can catch it, if freshly donated.

Now in case you didn't realize yet, we are feisty, headstrong little critters. If we are insistent on using a corner not designed for potty use, you can make it a sleep, play, or eating corner. Take a piece of bedding already slept in and place it in a corner you do not want to be used as a poop corner. We prefer one of your old sweat shirts after you have worn it once. Then put it in our hammock over night then in the corner. We are clean animals and will not poop where we sleep unless we are sick. Attach a toy or place a group of toys in a corner. We are very clean animals and do not poop where we live only in the poop room HEHEHE.

Make sure when you start a new cage or room make sure to have it setup exactly the way you want it before introducing your fuzzy ferret. If you are concerned about the use of a new potty pan place a piece of used paper or an "oops poop" into the corner of the pan. Your ferret will learn to use his own potty spot. Some ferrets prefer to poop on ramps. Ask our rescue mom about our ramp protectors.