

Glossary of Pet Food Ingredients

Meat (e.g., lamb, beef, chicken) – "...the clean flesh derived from slaughtered mammals and is limited to that part of the striate muscle which is skeletal or that which is found in the tongue, diaphragm, heart, esophagus; with or without that accompanying and overlying fat and the portions of the skin, sinew, nerve, and blood vessels..."

Poultry – "...the clean combination of flesh and skin with or without accompanying bone..."

Meat Meal (e.g., lamb meal, beef meal) – "...the rendered product from mammal tissues, exclusive of any added blood, hair, hoof, horn, hide trimmings, manure, stomach and rumen contents except in such amounts as may occur unavoidably in good processing practices..."

Poultry Meal – "...the dry rendered products derived from a combination of clean flesh and skin with or without accompanying bone..."

Meat and Bone Meal – "...the rendered product from mammal tissues, including bone, exclusive of any added blood, hair, hoof, horn, hide trimmings, manure, stomach and rumen contents except in such amounts as may occur unavoidably in good processing practices..."

Meat By-Products – "...the non-rendered, clean parts, all than meat, derived from slaughtered mammals. It included, but is not limited to, lungs, spleen, kidneys, brain, livers, blood, bone, partially defatted low temperature fatty tissue, and stomachs and intestines..."

Poultry By-Products – "...Poultry By-Products must consist of non-rendered clean part of carcasses of slaughtered poultry such as heads, feet, viscera..."

Poultry By-Products Meal – "...consists of the ground, rendered, clean parts of the carcass of slaughtered poultry, such as necks, feet, undeveloped eggs, and intestines, exclusive of feathers, except in such amounts as may occur unavoidably in good processing practices..."

Animal By-Products Meal – "...the rendered product from mammal tissues, exclusive of any added hair, hoof, horn, hide trimmings, manure, stomach and rumen contents... This ingredient definition is intended to cover those individual rendered animal tissue products that can not meet the criteria as set forth elsewhere..." Above are the AAFCO (American Association of Feed Control Officials) definitions that describe the ingredients in your pet's food.

The Educated Ferret Association
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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: _____

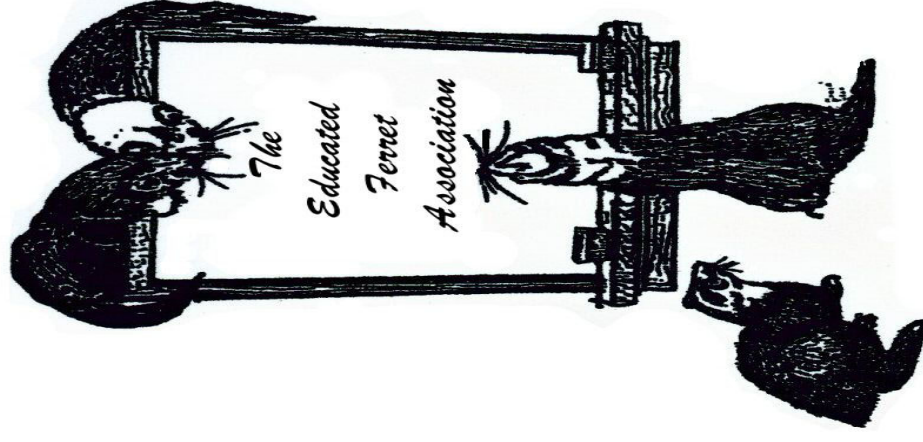
Type of Business: _____

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: _____

Food and Diet



E-MAIL US: educatedferret@aol.com
Or visit our website:

<http://www.theeducatedferret.net>

Donna Spiritio ~ Rescue Director

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We are obligated carnivores. Do you know what that Means?



There are three basic types of animals: carnivores (meat eaters), herbivores (plant eaters), and omnivores (both). Ferrets are obligate carnivores. This means they were created to eat meat. Yes, we will try to steal your soda and candy. We have a sweet tooth, but you wouldn't give your cow a steak or your pet rabbit meat. So why would you give your ferret a vegetable? We eat every four hours and require continuous food and water.

When purchasing food for a ferret, PLEASE READ THE LABEL and remember that we are carnivores. Most ferret food manufactures use plant matter as fillers and binders to keep the cost down. Like out health care, in choosing our food, cost should not be considered. Just think of all plant matter as ending up in the poop-pan, and your money too. At the rescue, our humans learn very quickly how our diet affects our bodies. A ferrets on a poor diet will come in with very dry, flaky, itchy skin and hair. We have no muscle tone and our poops can be any color of the rainbow.

This means our bodies are not working properly and we will need much more care and a longer stay at the shelter before we can be placed in a loving home.

Again, learn to read the label. Foods with sweeteners, such as molasses, raisins or raisin juice, and corn products (a natural sugar) can contain high quantities of sugar. Since we have a sweet tooth, this makes it taste better, but we do not need it. I guess what we are trying to teach our humans is that a good quality diet consists of dog food for dogs, cat food for cats, which are omnivores; grains for rabbits and cows, which are herbivores; and a good protein diet for us little carnivores. Note, ferrets are not natural fishermen, so fish protein is not a natural protein, but is used for cost reduction. It also makes our fur an poop smell bad. Suggested good quality foods are Totally Ferret, Path Valley, or Mazuri.

The only human food that is good for us in our daily diet or as a treat is human baby food or cooked chicken. Baby food should be stage 1 or 2 chicken only or turkey and broth or gravy. Cooked chicken should be near the bone without flavorings or coatings, as these are plant matter.

An acceptable ferret treat is a small piece of ChewWeasle. Our humans read the ingredients and said they were okay. Some humans give us extra treats because they feel guilty about not giving us enough time or because they love us and we like the treats. But our bodies only need a good nutritious diet, and for an extra treat, we prefer 10 minutes of playtime with our human.

Our bodies are a lot like humans, We are made mostly of water and require lots of water or we will dehydrate. Also, please remember water bottles and bowls must be rinsed daily. We have a sensitive high acidic digestive system and bacteria

can make us very sick. Because we eat and drink at the same time, the crumbs of our food end up in our water bowl. The bowl will become very slimy and smell. The water bottle's nozzle will collect saliva and bacteria. It can make us sick and the nozzle will not function properly.

Treats:

1. Gerber chicken or turkey w/ gravy Stage 2
2. Gerber or Beechnut Chicken and broth, heat 3 seconds in the microwave
3. Cooked chicken or turkey, next to the bone only, please do not salt, gravy, or season our food.
4. An Occasional Pounce tarter control Chicken treat. 2x weekly
5. Play with us an extra ten minutes when you don't usually take us out.
6. A little Petromalt, Ferrivite, or Ferritone. No more then the size of a pea and only once a week. Does not include Petromalt for hair ball treatment.
7. A little duck soup on occasion so we will eat it when we are sick.

