

# Ferret Housing

Ferrets are highly social animals that should not be kept in a cage full time. Ideally, they should be outside of their habitat about four hours everyday.

## Location

Since ferrets have a high social need, set up their habitat in a room where you spend a lot of time. Ferrets also like to sleep a lot, so do not place their habitat in an area that is loud or hectic.

Never keep a ferret outdoors. There are too many predators, parasites, and insects that can pass on diseases. Heat stroke is also a big risk for ferrets since they are very heat sensitive. The ideal temperature for a ferret is in the low 70's.

## Housing Type

**Cage:** A tall, multi-level, wire sided, solid bottom cage is best. The bigger the better! Most ferret lovers prefer the Ferret Nation 182 Double by Midwest cage. With wide opening double doors, it is very easy to clean. You can even add a third level if housing numerous ferrets. Small, single level cages or cages with a wire bottom should be avoided.

**Cage Free:** Ferrets can live cage free in a ferret proofed room. It is not recommended that your ferret have free roam of the house. They can easily get into furniture or in blankets and are at risk of being sat on, stuck, lost, or ingest something that will make them sick.

## Set-up and Accessories

**Food and Water Dishes:** Dishes that attach to the side of the cage are best because ferrets will flip dishes over. Heavy ceramic dishes also work well. Lixit Quick lock crock is a ferret approved attached dish.

**Bedding:** Removable and washable bedding is recommended. Blankets, ferret hammocks, and cat beds work great. Washing them regularly will help keep the musky smell to a minimum.



**Litterbox:** Multiple litterboxes throughout the cage is best. Most ferrets prefer a litterbox they can get their whole body in. A high back litterbox is recommended because ferrets like to back up into a corner of the litterbox to go to the bathroom. A lock-on litterbox might also be handy, because ferrets will likely try and push it around! Remember to not use clay cat litter, wood or recycled paper pellets are the safest to use.

**Accessories:** You can place toys and tunnels in your ferrets habitat as well. Avoid running wheels, they are an injury hazard.

## Cleaning

**Daily cleaning:** Scooping litterboxes and topping off with fresh litter and removing any food and water from the previous day. Soiled bedding should also be removed daily.

**Weekly cleaning:** Remove and wash all bedding. The floors, walls, litterboxes, food, and water dishes should be cleaned with warm water and gentle soap. Be sure everything is completely dry before replacing bedding and accessories.

**Once a month:** Completely disassemble the habitat and scrub everything down.

