

Ferret Bonding

Ferrets are very social animals and enjoy living with other ferrets. It is not recommended to house a ferret alone. Ferrets love to wrestle and chase each other and bonded ferrets like to cuddle and sleep together. Ferrets do not always get along right away so a slow introduction is needed.

Introducing a New Ferret

- A veterinarian visit is a good idea to make sure your new ferret is healthy and disease free before introductions start.
- Start off by separating the new ferret from the resident ferrets for a week or two to allow the ferrets to get used to each other. Swap bedding and keep their habitats in the same area so they can get used to each other's scents and sounds. A separation period can also help reduce the chances of fighting when face-to-face introductions begin.
- Once your ferrets (and you) seem comfortable with the new ferret in the area, you can move forward with play sessions.
 - Fighting for dominance is normal when first introducing ferrets. Fighting can range from no fighting at all to an all-out battle. Hope for no fighting but prepare for a battle!
 - Introductions should be done in a neutral area of the house where neither of the ferrets have been.
 - Start off by holding each of the ferrets and allowing them to sniff each other. If things are going well, gradually give them more freedom.
 - You can expect some fighting, but if it escalates (watch for biting, shaking, or any broken skin), promptly put both ferrets back in their habitats.
 - If things are going well, continue supervised play sessions daily until you are comfortable housing them together. Once the ferrets are housed in the same habitat, monitor them closely for the first few days.
- It is important to be patient throughout the bonding process. Ferrets typically accept each other within 3 to 14 days, but it can take months.
- If your ferrets start grooming each other, that is a sign of acceptance.

Tips

- It is easier to introduce two or more ferrets at once since the resident ferret will not be focused on just one newcomer.
- Ferrets that have been alone for longer periods of time can be harder to bond with new ferrets, so try not to let your ferret live alone for long.
- Bathing ferrets at the same time can help with introductions because they will smell the same.



20950 Enterprise Avenue | Brookfield, WI 53045
262-782-9261
ebhs.org