

Ferret Facts

Did You Know:

- Ferrets have a natural, strong musky smell. This is from their oil glands they have all over their body. It is important to regularly clean bedding to prevent a build up of these oils, increasing the smell. Also, over-bathing your ferret causes the glands to produce even more oil, thus increasing the smell.
- Ferrets can live 6 to 12 years.
- Ferrets are part of the weasel family, Mustelidae, which includes polecats, stoats, and ermines. Domesticated ferrets likely descended from the European polecat.
- From 1860 to the start of World War II, ferrets were widely used in the American West to protect grain stores from rodents. They gained popularity as pets in the 1980's and 1990's.
- Excited ferrets will do the 'weasel war dance.' This consists of a frenzied series of hopping sideways and backwards, often with and arched back and frizzed out tail. Sometimes the 'weasel war dance' is accompanied by 'dooking' which is a clucking vocalization.
- A group of ferrets is called a business.
- It is illegal to own a ferret in California, Hawaii, and various communities in the Unites States.
- Ferrets sleep for around 20 hours a day. Ferrets can be so deep in sleep that when you pick them up, they still don't wake up.
- Ferrets have very flexible ribs that allow them to flatten themselves and crawl through very small spaces.



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