

Ferret Health

Just like dogs and cats, ferrets require vaccinations. Ferrets should receive three canine distemper vaccinations when they are young and a yearly booster. A rabies vaccine is available at some veterinary clinics. Check your local municipal laws to see if your ferret is required to have a rabies vaccine. A yearly wellness check with your veterinarian is also recommended.

Monitoring Health

It is very important to monitor your ferrets health every day. If you learn what is normal for your ferret, you will be able to quickly identify when something is wrong. If any of these symptoms are observed, contact a veterinarian. Some things to look out for are:

- Diarrhea or green slimy feces
- Sporadic hair loss
- Lethargy
- Anorexia
- Lumps or bumps anywhere on the body
- Excessive sneezing and coughing
- Vomiting
- Difficulty breathing
- Seizure

Common Diseases

Anemia

Female ferrets can become anemic if they are not spayed and have not mated. They may stay in heat for a long period of time, causing high levels of estrogen in the blood which suppresses the bone marrow's ability to produce red blood cells. This is why it is important to always spay female ferrets.

Adrenal Disease

Adrenal disease is a cancerous growth on the adrenal glands which cause a hormonal imbalance and can have devastating effects on their health. Symptoms of adrenal disease is hair loss, increased aggression, and difficulty urinating. Treatment often involves surgery or hormone therapy.



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

Distemper

Sadly, most ferrets that become infected with distemper do not live, thus it is extremely important to make sure your ferret's distemper vaccine is up to date.

Insulinoma

Insulinoma is the most common type of cancer in ferrets. It attacks the islet cells of the pancreas, which leads to overproduction of insulin. Too much insulin causes their blood sugar to drop, resulting in lethargy, seizures, and ultimately death. The cause of insulinoma is currently unknown, but it is believed to be from poor diets with too much sugar and carbohydrates. Treatment can include surgery, steroids, and diet change.

Intestinal Blockages

Ferrets are prone to intestinal blockages because they often eat things they shouldn't. Blockages are very serious and should be treated immediately. Surgery is needed to remove the blockage in most cases. Signs of a blockage include anorexia and lethargy.

