

Ferret Socialization & Enrichment

Ferrets require plenty of socialization, enrichment, and space to stretch and exercise. This is good for their bond with humans and gives them crucial exercise and movement they need as they grow. Ferrets need to mimic natural behaviors in a way that is both physically and psychologically beneficial. They are very social animals and do their best living with multiple ferrets.

Socialization Spaces

While ferrets can be socialized, the ideal location for bonding will have ramps, tunnels, sound toys, and digging boxes. Multi-level exercise can be achieved through ramps. Tunnels are great for ferrets to hide in and run through. Ferrets love to move and manipulate things in their environments, so their space should include several enrichment tools.

Playtime

The following are a few toys you can use to enrich the lives of your ferrets by keeping them mentally and physically stimulated:

Dig Box

Dig boxes help satisfy a ferret's natural desire to dig. Dig boxes have been known to decrease a ferret's anxiety, prevent destructive digging, decrease their natural body odor, and help them shed their old coat. All you need is a clear storage tote (size is up to you) and a 10lb bag of long-grain rice (you may need more or less, depending on the size of the container you choose). Cut a hole in the side (if it's a high-sided container) or the lid of the container so your ferret can crawl through the hole and into the box. Ferrets LOVE dig boxes and will fling rice everywhere, which is why the lid is important. Make sure there is plenty of open space between the rice and lid for your ferret to move around. Dig boxes should only be used under supervision. Some ferrets might eat the rice, and if your ferret tries this you can switch to sand.

Cat Toys

Most cat toys also work great! Crinkle sacks are popular due to the fun noise they make. Small balls or toy mice that contain a bell will catch your ferret's interest, as will a wand toy. Ferrets love to drag toys and store them in their secret spot, which is usually under furniture.

Tunnels

Many ferrets thoroughly enjoy running through tunnels. Tunnels made for cats or a flexible plastic dryer vent hose works great!

Water

Offer your ferret a bowl or shallow tub of water. They love to dig their noses in the water.

Ball Pit

Purchase some children's ball pit balls or ping pong balls and place them in a large container. You can also hide treats in the ball pit for your ferret to sniff, find, and enjoy!



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