



FACT SHEET - FERRETS

Lively and inquisitive little animals, very playful and great escape artists!

They can, however, give a severe bite and also have a musky smell. They come in a variety of colours. Ferrets enjoy being taken for walks and you can purchase special harness and leads for them.



Ferrets Need

- A large combined home and exercise pen
- Fresh meadow hay or old towels, or sweaters for bedding
- A well balanced diet of a complete dried food supplemented with raw or cooked meat and a small amount of fruit and sweet vegetables
- A dark, quiet place to sleep
- A fresh supply of drinking water
- Toys such as cardboard tubes, boxes or wooden cotton reels
- Regular exercise and handling
- The companionship of other ferrets
- Annual vaccinations against canine distemper

Ferret Health

- Any signs of discharge from eyes, mouth or nose should be referred to your vet as should any signs of diarrhoea
- Listlessness, vomiting or constipation may be caused by intestinal obstruction - consult your vet immediately
- Ferrets can catch human influenza and cold viruses
- They are susceptible to heat stroke and dehydration
- Ferrets tend to deteriorate quickly when ill due to their high metabolic rate so it is important to get veterinary treatment immediately

Ferret Facts

- Average life span is 8 - 10 years
- Should be neutered or spayed before sexual maturity - it reduces their odour and will extend their lives
- Female ferrets go into heat in their first Spring and will remain in season until mated. If mating does not occur, females will succumb to aplastic anaemia and die

This is intended as a quick guide only. Further information should be obtained before embarking on keeping this type of pet.