

**MAFF GENERAL MEETING**  
**August 19, 2006**  
**Minutes**

Host: Diane Wall, South Shore Ferret Care, Holbrook, MA  
Called to order 3:00 PM by Phyllis Spy.  
Attendee list on file.

**President's Report – P. Spy**

We are grandparents! Liberty, MaFF's adopted black footed ferret, has kits!

When I look back on June, July and August, I can only remember unbelievable numbers of ferrets abandoned, lost, surrendered and eventually arriving at MaFF's shelter, South Shore Ferret Care and The Educated Ferret Association. All three shelters have taken in more than their quota (if you will) of ferrets, leaving us with 'No Vacancy' signs on each shelter's door.

Lately, more and more ferrets under six months old are being turned into the shelters. Many arrive after being found on the street, in a state forest, or on Craig's List. I have contacted PETCO and will give a presentation outlining a moratorium for a period of six months where PETCO reduces their MA ferret orders by one-half. A sign stating 'Our mommy doesn't think we are ready to leave yet, so please be patient while we grow up a bit more' could be placed on the ferret enclosure. If someone doesn't find a ferret right away and has to come back in a couple weeks, they'll have more time to consider the decision and make preparations. Another advantage of the presentation/ meeting is to keep PETCO aware of the shelter statistics so they can make their buying decisions more responsibly. We may also be able to determine the percentage of ferrets sold who end up back in shelters at various stages of their lives. A report is forthcoming after the PETCO meeting.

For the next couple weeks, everyone should take a break to 'recharge their batteries.' When things become too hectic, we tend to lose focus on the main reason why we work so hard. Let's all remember that we do what we do for the good of ferrets and our efforts as a team are making a difference everyday for the ferrets and their owners.

The next few months will be particularly hectic with preparations for King Noah's Fire, so let's get ready to have an extremely successful and fun event!

**VP Report – L. Andrews**

Nothing to report at this time.

**Clerk's Report – J. Renouf**

Nothing to report at this time.

**Treasurer's Report – B. Harkins**

Financial statement for Jan-Jul 2006 on file.

**MaFF Foster / Shelter Network Report – T. Wallach (absent)**

MaFF Shelter is over-filled with 35 ferrets. Each week, more ferrets are rescued and await forever homes. Between both shelters, 17 ferrets have been taken in over the past 21 days.

Be sure to email photos to Trudy if you have foster ferrets. Let's not forget that the goal of fostering is to find each ferret a forever home.

**Hotline Coordinator Report** – D. Wheeler

Rescue calls (see foster / shelter report)

**Membership Report** – D. Connors

Welcome, Donna Connors, to the Membership Committee! Annual membership renewals will be in the mail soon.

**Webmaster Report** – M. Rosenstein

The message board software has been reconfigured to make it more difficult for spam to be posted. Following the reconfiguration, new users must receive an automated email before logging in for the first time.

Wysong contacted MaFF about advertising on the website. More information is needed on how ad fees are calculated - does MaFF only get paid if someone clicks on the ad?

The web site re-design is targeted for Fall, depending on workload.

**Area Coordinator North Shore** – K. Mayne

A cage was donated to Ipswich Animal Shelter, and food was donated to Methuen MSPCA. Methuen gets regular visits. MaFF gets a 15% discount at Putnam Veterinary in Topsfield.

Email notifications come through whenever the word 'ferret' is listed on Craig's List - 16 ferrets have been tracked on Craig's List. Thankfully, there haven't been as many abandoned or surrendered ferrets on the North Shore as in other areas. Lorraine Denicourt, MaFF member in N. Reading, is donating bedding and supplies.

The Topsfield Fair is a good possibility for a 'ferret show'. This year may be difficult to put together due to numerous other commitments (King Noah's Faire), but it's worth keeping in mind.

**Area Coordinator Metro West** – H. Bowser

We need to find another location for the car wash fundraiser. The original location, Sam's Club, closed its doors. Education days are on-going. One ferret in foster care - 1 year-old.

**Area Coordinator South Shore** – K. Baker

Education / adoption days continue at four different stores, ~~four times~~ **once** a month. The goal is to reinforce, educate potential pet owners on how much commitment ferrets are.

**Area Coordinator Western Mass.** – D. Spirito

Thanks to MaFF's Foster/ Shelter network for helping to spread the ferret rescues and workload throughout the state.

PETCO no longer allows homemade baked goods to be sold due to a food allergy concern/ regulations. Packaged goods can be sold. Three fundraiser, education days have taken place at the Holyoke PETCO: 6/10, 7/8, and 8/12. \$10/event is donated to MaFF. See upcoming events under the Events heading. MaFF members have been contacted for volunteer time; W. MA members are difficult to reach or unavailable.

16 Ferrets have come into the Educated Ferret, 11 have been placed in forever homes, leaving 5 still in care.

**Merchandise Report – P. Spy**

May add day-to-day supplies to the bedding, cage accessories currently for sale. MaFF could use a volunteer with merchandising experience.

Contact Rose German to pre-order your 2007 calendars:

- The Educated Ferret has a calendar available, which is a coloring book as well.
- MaFF will pre-order Jeanne Carly's 2007 calendars

**Audit Committee – P. Spy**

Need chairperson

**Legislation / Legal – P. Spy**

Pets Evacuation & Transportation Standards (PETS) Act HR 3858 was unanimously approved by the Senate 8/4/06.

**Other – P. Spy**

Phyllis to send SMART flyers to area coordinators. Know that resources are available - find ferret-knowledgeable vets in each key area who can assist in an emergency. [www.ferretemergency.org](http://www.ferretemergency.org) is an example from Louisiana.

**Events – P. Spy**

See website for most up-to-date events listing.

9/9, 10A - Celebration of Animals, Mansfield - NEED COORDINATOR

9/9, 10A - Tufts Open House, Grafton - Ferret playground to be set up, indoor event.

9/9, 11/18, 12/9, 10AM - Educated Ferret to be at PETCO Holyoke - D. Spirito

9/17, 1P - Adoption Day, PETCO, Taunton - K. Baker

10/15, 11A - King Noah's Faire, Natick Amvets - Committee notes in separate document.

10/22, 1P - Education/Adoption Day, PETCO, Plymouth

11/11, TBD - MaFF 4th General Meeting

11/11, 11A - Educated Ferret to be at FACT Winter Open House

12/17, 4PM - Educated Ferret Christmas Party, Chicopee, MA (contact D. Spirito)

11/19, 1P - Education/Adoption Day, PetSmart, N. Attleboro

12/3, 1P - Education/Adoption Day, PetSmart, Braintree