

MASSACHUSETTS FERRET FRIENDS, INC.
SECOND GENERAL MEETING
June 7, 2008
Meeting Minutes

- **Tuesday's Story / Tuesday's Bill**

Tuesday is a young, tiny ferret who came from a pet store. She had an alarmingly large bulge on the side of her belly, which the pet store explained as 'overeating.' A MaFF member purchased Tuesday because it was obvious that there was more to the story, and the pet store wasn't compelled or required to look further into Tuesday's situation. Under the care of Diddy, Tuesday was taken in for exploratory surgery. The bulge was a swollen, failed kidney, apparently caused by a botched spay procedure. A kidney removal was successfully performed, and Tuesday has recovered very well. If left untreated, Tuesday wouldn't be alive today.

Diane Wall is putting together a detailed chronology of Tuesday's story because it represents a number of gaps between the way the state treats ferrets and the way dogs and cats are handled:

- Pet stores are not required to provide vet exams for ferrets.
- Pet stores are not required to arrange vaccinations for ferrets.
- Pet stores are not required to comply with any specific conditions for ferret care, either with respect to conditions or animal knowledge. Ferret shelters, on the other hand, are required to adhere to a three-page set of guidelines.

MaFF would like to introduce Tuesday's Bill to address these and other gaps in current regulations. Set up a separate web site with public and private discussion forums, at tuesdaysbill.com / tuesdaysbill.org . The following volunteers have stepped forward to assist with the legislation efforts: Michele Paulhus, Diane Wall, Phyllis Spy and Jody Renouf. Phyllis will contact Sharon Burbine and the Casaubon-Rocheville family to see if they're also interested. The committee would look at all available resources, such as Mass Bar Association for any pro-bono attorneys, fundraising (greeting card sets), and finding any politicians in MaFF's extended family.

- **Shelter**

Tressie, who runs a shelter in Canada, is in need of ferrets. Pre-screened, qualified, eager people in Canada are waiting for ferrets to arrive at Tressie's for immediate adoption. MaFF is taking some of the shelter ferrets to Tressie's. Fostering arrangements are set up at Tressie's, in case any adoptions don't work out. This trip is scheduled for the last week in June.

- **Fundraising**

Use goodsearch.com, with MaFF as the recipient. Look into goodshop.com or amazon.com for pass-through donations based on purchases.

(old business) Ferret-of-the-month email with a PayPal button to make a donation.

(old business) 'Financial Foster' – sponsor a ferret's care, then receive updates on the ferret's health and any stories about the ferret. Regular updates are the key to making this a 'Foster'.

- **Technology / Web Presence**

Phyllis will contact Mark to go over a content update of the MaFF web site, particularly on the home page.

Phyllis will register for pets911.com . pets911 is a multi-purpose pet web site with shelter lists, lost and found animal reporting, a vet directory, and adoptables.

- **King Ranger's Faire Planning**

Borderland Park (Easton, MA) is a likely place. \$2 admission for vehicles (separate from MaFF's entry fee). Outdoor facilities only. <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/borderland/>
\$1 million liability insurance will be required. Diane Wall is researching.

Phyllis to contact last year's coordinators to see if they'd like the same tasks. Then, packets will be sent out to the coordinators.

- **2008 – Events**

6/21 – Ferret bedding sewing circle at Diddy's

6/22 – Blessing of the Animals is postponed. New date tbd.

7/13 – Adoption day at North Dartmouth Petco

8/16 – MaFF Picnic at Jo and Alan's. Ferrets are invited!

9/06 – Tuft's Open House, Grafton Campus

9/13 – King Ranger's Faire. Borderland Park

9/27 – Mansfield Celebration of Animals

TBD – Ferret Giving Tree at Bill and Jackie's