

Can You Help?

Can You Foster?

By Diane Wall & Kathy Street

As many of you are aware, this has been the worst year that we have seen so far for abused and abandoned ferrets. Many of the larger rescue organizations like the Animal Rescue Leagues or MSPCA's have either consolidated or closed their doors. The ones that are left usually are not able to take in ferrets even in an emergency situation (except for Methuen and Brockton).

We are now at an *urgent* status. In the last few weeks *many* ferrets have either been surrendered or abandoned. On six different occasions in the past four weeks, the MaFF Hotline and South Shore Ferret Care (SSFC) have taken the calls for rescuing abandoned ferrets. These rescues are in addition to the typical surrenders (i.e. moving, new baby, not enough time, allergies, etc.) The MSPCA in Methuen had taken in about 12 ferrets within a few days and called SSFC for help with the stressed out ones and/or "biting" ones, including four older ferrets and one bitey ferret who would have been put to sleep. The Brockton Animal Care Center (formerly Brockton MSPCA) has taken in nine ferrets and also contacted SSFC for help. The Dedham ARL is full and their facility is under construction.

South Shore Ferret Care is at maximum capacity with hospice and resident ferrets and the recently rescued abandoned stray ferrets from Quincy, Norwood, North Attleboro and Fall River. SSFC is the only active ferret shelter handling calls from the Animal Control Officers and the MSPCA Law Enforcement cases. Since MaFF is no longer taking in any ferrets, SSFC is now maxed to



capacity along with all of their foster homes.

With this influx of ferrets we hope someone has room in their home to adopt a ferret or consider providing a permanent foster home to a shelter resident. Generally these are ferrets that need extra love and care, may be younger or older and may or may not have special needs. Any experience with adrenal disease, insulinoma or hospice care would be helpful.

Potential foster families need to be able to transport their fosters to either Randolph Animal Hospital or Mattapoisett Animal Hospital for care. Randolph and Mattapoisett are the two veterinary offices partnered with the shelter to provide services at discounted rates, which enable SSFC to exist. Training and education are provided as well as any prescribed medications such as melatonin implants, prednisone, etc. for chronic conditions. Learning how to care for ferrets with special needs will enable you to learn skills that may become necessary as your own ferrets age and need specialized care.

Would you be consider opening your heart and home to a shelter ferret? Your help would help the shelter to remain open and continue to help all ferrets in need.

For info contact Diane Wall, shelter director of South Shore Ferret Care, 781-249-4628, southshoreferretcare@comcast.net, www.southshoreferretcare.org.

Weasel Money

By Mark Rosenstein

I know that pet ferrets can cost a lot of money to maintain, but this isn't about that. Weasels have appeared on real money.

In 1991 Lithuania issued a 10 Talonas note with a pair of martens on it. The European marten, sometimes called a pine marten, is like the north american fisher cat. It is a large, chunky weasel who inhabits forests.

This bill was part of a series depicting various native animals that Lithuania issued when they moved away from the Russian Ruble as their official currency. They were nicknamed *Vagnoriukai*, or "zoo tickets," because of the animal pictures. The 100 Talonas note has river otters on it. This series of bank notes were small and printed on low quality paper and never popular. They were replaced just a couple of years later by another new currency called the *litas*.

The series of bills with animal pictures ended up worth almost nothing, and many were printed. They are easily available through dealers of foreign and antique currencies. ❄



Tuesday's Tips

To switch things up a little bit, try adding some kitchen flavor extracts to your fuzzy's bedding or toys. It gives them some new and interesting scents to check out. There are some interesting extracts such as orange, almond, anise, lemon and strawberry. Check them out and find the ones that appeal to you and your babies.



Another thing that is a total hit at my house are grocery store plastic bags. Just make sure to cut the handles (and I usually cut a bunch of holes in the bag). Throw them on the floor and watch the party happen. *However, for safety's sake, please do not leave the bags with the ferrets unattended, it is always better to be safe than sorry.* ❄

MaFF Presents our annual frolic:

TINKER'S TIKI LUAU



SAT, OCT 22, 11AM-3PM

Featuring the world famous MaFF Ferret Playground, food, games, raffles, vendors and more. Theme costumes encouraged. Admission \$5 (\$3 for members).

At Knights of Columbus Hall, 375 Foundry St., North Easton, MA. Directions at www.eastonkofc.org.

Ferrets welcome, but must be healthy and on leash when not in a carrier. Proof of rabies and distemper vaccinations required.

Meet a MaFF Member



Mark Rosenstein, MaFF's webmaster, has had ferrets for the last twelve years, usually three at a time.

Mark says "after keeping several pets that aren't interactive, such as fish and lizards, I've really bonded with our ferrets and come to appreciate each one's unique personality." ❄

MaFF Election News

Welcome to Kristin Baker as MaFF Board Vice President! Educating the public and giving MaFF more exposure by organizing education days at Petco are just a couple of Kristin's priorities when she is not taking care of her adopted and foster ferrets.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to former Vice President Donna Connors for her hard work since 2007 on the board. Donna helped see MaFF through many changes over the years, fostered hospice ferrets, and continues to volunteer generously by handling the food at our annual frolic. ❄

Become a MaFF Member Today!

Sign up on our website at www.maferrets.org/join

Upcoming Events

For more details, please check our website at www.maferrets.org/events

Picnic & MaFF General Meeting

Sun, Aug 21 12:00pm- 4:00pm
at Jo & Alan's in Attleboro.

Ferret Adoption/Education Day

Sat, Aug 27 1:00pm- 4:00pm
Petco in Plymouth, MA.

Ferret Adoption/Education Day

Sat, Aug 27 1:00pm- 4:00pm
Petco in Natick, MA.

Ferret Adoption/Education Day

Sat, Sep 17 1:00pm- 4:00pm
Petco in Mansfield, MA.

Ferret Adoption/Education Day

Sat, Sep 17 1:00pm- 4:00pm
Petco in Brighton, MA.

New England Pet Expo

Sat, Sep 24 10:00am-6:00pm
Shriner's Auditorium in Wilmington.

Ferret Adoption/Education Day

Sat, Oct 1 1:00pm- 4:00pm
Petco in Woburn, MA.

Ferret Adoption/Education Day

Sat, Oct 1 1:00pm- 4:00pm
Petco in Natick, MA.

Four Lil' Paws Ferret Awareness Day

Sat, Oct 8 10:00am-3:00pm
Lion's Club Hall, Londonderry, NH.

Ferret Adoption/Education Day

Sat, Oct 8 1:00pm- 4:00pm
Petco in N Darmouth, MA.

Tinker's Tiki Luau

Sat, Oct 22, 11:00am-3:00pm
Knights of Columbus Hall, N Easton.

Ferret Adoption/Education Day

Sat, Oct 29 1:00pm- 4:00pm
Petco in Plymouth, MA.

Ferret Adoption/Education Day

Sat, Oct 29 1:00pm- 4:00pm
Petco in Brighton, MA.

The Fuzzy Papers

Contributors: Michele Paulhus, Kathy Street, Jody Renouf & Mark Rosenstein. **Send submissions to publications@maferrets.org**