

Animal Rights: Protecting Our Pets

By Kathy Street

Every spring the MSPCA Animal Action Team hosts an Animal Lobby Day at the State House for concerned animal lovers. This is a great opportunity to review upcoming bills for consideration and meet with your representatives. Animal activists have the chance to express their opinions on why a bill should, or shouldn't, be passed and how it will impact our beloved pets. This is your time to be their voice.

This past spring I went to the lobby day and chose to discuss the following two bills with my representatives.

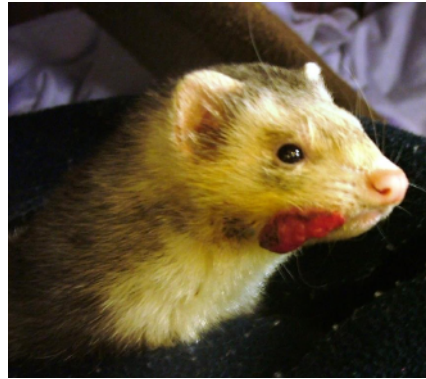
"House Bill 1852 would clarify the current animal cruelty law to prevent a person from knowingly and unjustifiably failing to provide an animal with veterinary care that results in unnecessary suffering."

For those of us witnessing the sad stories of neglected ferrets this bill would change the law from stating that providing food, shelter and water is sufficient to include providing medical treatment.

"Senate Bill 942 would require owners of rented properties to check them for abandoned animals within 5 days after tenants move out; if abandoned animals are found, owners must report to the animal control officer or other authorities."

The passing of this bill would greatly benefit ferrets that have been abandoned. We all know a ferret can't survive very long without food and water. An update was posted that they have amended the number of days for the property to be checked from 5 down 3 days, a huge plus for our small friends!

A complete list of the bills, along with updates and how to get



Harvey showing the untreated tumor he sported when received at the shelter.

involved can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/OEKwrH>.

Getting laws changed and educating the public is a slow process, but so rewarding when you finally see a positive change! So, how can you help? With ferret shelters at capacity, including our own, there are many ways you can help. Find your passion. If you like to educate, volunteer to help with our educational events or sign up at a shelter near you. South Shore Ferret Care is always in need of shelter volunteers as is the Educated Ferret. The MSPCA and Animal Rescue Leagues also enlist volunteers, both of which do take in ferrets. Check them out and sign up. If you like to write, perhaps join the MSPCA Animal action team; there are always bills up for vote and you may be able to join a writing campaign. You can even write articles for this newsletter! Whichever way you decide, know that you are helping the domesticated ferret, and that it is appreciated! ❄️

Our foster ferrets count on your help.

**Become a MaFF
Donor Today!**

Give on our website at
www.maferrets.org/donate

Top Ten Reasons Ferrets Don't Go To The Beach

By Tuesday

10. This water tastes terrible!
9. The whole beach is my litter box.
8. Too many toes to nibble—how to choose?
7. "Carpet Shark" is just a euphemism. I got no fins.
6. You humans all taste funny with sunscreen.
5. Beach balls look chewy but they pop.
- 4½. Humans keep complaining about something called Sagamore.
4. The surf keeps uncovering the great stuff I buried.
3. The water keeps on... shiny object!
2. The seagulls are stealing my treats, and I'm afraid of them.
1. I can't find my human where I buried him. ❄️

Get an Early Start on Holiday Fun at
MaFF's Ferret Frolic



**It's Beginning to Look
a Lot Like Ferrets!**
Sat, Oct 26, 11am-3pm

Dedham VFW, 84 Eastern Ave, Dedham

- Ferret Playground
- Photos with Santa
- Food
- Raffles
- Games
- Vendors

Admission \$5 (\$3 for current MaFF supporters, children under 12 free).

Litter Box Training

By Michele Paulhus

I've found the very best way to litter train a ferret is to see where he likes to go and put a litter box there. There are a couple of tricks that you can do that might help things along—but the bottom line is—once he's found a spot he likes, he's found a spot that he likes. But as I said, there are some things that can help.

Always put your litter boxes in corners—but be aware that your room may have many more corners to your ferret than to you. To a ferret, a corner can be between a toy box and a wall, etc.

You want something that he can back up into—something with a high back, low front and that will allow him to stretch out.

Try leaving a little bit of feces in the litter box, just so he knows what he is supposed to put there.

Ferrets sometimes choose a place where you cannot put a litter box, such as in front of a door. In this case you may have to end up putting newspaper or puppy pads on the floor and letting them go there. Another trick that might work is to put a small food bowl in that corner, as most ferrets will not poop where they eat.

Ferrets scoot their little butts a little after "finishing their business". Don't be alarmed or grossed out. We use toilet paper; they use whatever is handy.

Which brings me to my next point, *under no circumstances* should you use clay litter. Ferrets drag themselves on their litter and clay can get stuck on and in their sensitive parts and can cause obstruction, irritation or infection.

The best litter to use is non clumping such as recycled paper pellets (Yesterday's News), wood pellets (Feline Pine), wood stove pellets, natural wheat clumping (Swheat Scoop) or a natural corn clumping litter (Arm and Hammer Essentials Natural Clumping Litter).

In the litter box war, the ferret always wins. ❄



Koa, Mari and Rucker.

Good News on Adrenal Disease

by Mark Rosenstein

Adrenocortical disease is a common condition in older ferrets where they develop tumors on their adrenal glands which leads to hormonal problems, hair loss, hind limb weakness and eventually life threatening side effects. It is sometimes treated by removing the tumors through surgery, and more often through drugs such as Lupron, Melatonin or Deslorelin.

A recent study from the US Department of Agriculture has shown promise in treating the cause rather than the symptoms of this disease. They explain it is likely caused from hormone imbalance in neutering pre-pubescent animals. The big news is that a vaccine, originally developed to reduce the fertility of wildlife species, was shown to prevent or delay onset of adrenocortical disease symptoms. The probability of developing the disease was significantly reduced when young (1-3 year old) ferrets were vaccinated with GonaCon™.

These are exciting laboratory results and we eagerly await clinical trials. Hopefully one day adrenal disease will no longer be common in domestic ferrets!

Reference: Miller LA, Fagerstone KA, Wagner RA, Finkler M. "Use of a GnRH vaccine, GonaCon™, for prevention and treatment of adrenocortical disease (ACD) in domestic ferrets." ❄

Upcoming Events

Ferret Education/Adoption Day

Sat, 8/24 12-3pm Petco N Andover

Ferret Education/Adoption Day

Sat, 9/14 12-3pm Petco Woburn

Frolic Planning Meeting (Pizza!)

Sat, 9/15, 1-3pm Mark & Jody's in

Cambridge. RSVP clerk@maferrets.org

New England Pet Expo

Sat 9/21 10-6pm Wilmington

4Li'l Paws' Ferret Festival

Sat, 10/5, 11-3pm, Londonderry NH

Ferret Education/Adoption Day

Sat, 10/12 12-3pm Petco N Andover

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like

Ferrets - MaFF's frolic

Our biggest event of the year

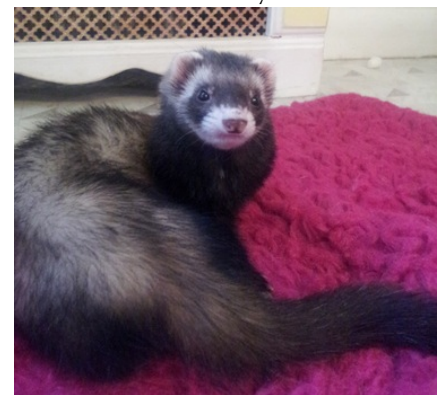
Sat, 10/26, 11-3pm, Dedham

More info at: maferrets.org. ❄

Shelter Update

We currently have 17 ferrets in our care. Most are in hospice care with foster parents; six are adoptable:

Heidi and Patrick are 1½ year olds who need to go to an experienced home without young children. Kayla and Becca were sent to us last month from the ASPCA on Nantucket. Gizmo and Rascal are about 1½ years old. ❄



Heidi is up for adoption with Patrick.

The Fuzzy Papers

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

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