

Ferret Introductions

By Michele Paulhus

It is interesting that some ferrets who get along very well in an environment outside their home (i.e. the shelter) seem to run into problems once they are back in their own space.

One reason for this is that some ferrets are very territorial about their homes, their toys, their friends and in some cases—even their people. Another reason is that some ferrets are more dominant and need to make sure that any new ferrets in the house knows who is “Head Alpha in Charge”. A group of ferrets is called a business and the alpha considers him/herself top of the food chain. Below the alpha, there is a hierarchy and everyone needs to find their place within it. When everyone is trying to figure this out, some ferrets jump right into the challenge and some want nothing to do with it.

As difficult as this is, the best thing to do for a “normal scuffle” is let them try to work it out. The more you intervene, the more you prolong the process. There should be no serious screaming, no pooping and no blood. If any of those happen, intervene immediately. Even if it is just a “normal scuffle” you *must* monitor closely. A normal scuffle usually wears itself out within 20 seconds, if it doesn’t then separate them.

If there is excessive screaming, blood or poop immediately stop the scuffle and the ferrets should not be reintroduced until you have tried a couple of things. If you try the below suggestions and these things still happen, it is still possible to integrate them, but you need to do it very slowly and be very patient.

If they like Ferretone, put some on each other’s bellies and let them lick it off. Do not let them near the back of each other’s necks.



Another idea is to swap each other’s bedding or wash all of the ferrets (in the same ferret shampoo) and wash all of the bedding. Many times there are problems that can be fixed, just by making everyone smell the same.

You could also allow the less dominant ferret to walk around and hang out when the more dominant is tired or sleeping. If he is a very submissive ferret, remove him when he starts acting anxious if the dominant starts to wake or move around. If it’s a group that you are “letting work it out” well, then—have at it.

If you notice personality changes in the submissive ferret or the “scuffling” has continued for a couple of months with no positive change, they might just not be a good fit. The sad fact is that not everyone likes everyone else. In that case it would be in their best interests if you kept them separated. If structured properly, separate groups are not difficult. ❄

Our foster ferrets count on your help.

Become a MaFF Donor Today!

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

Upcoming Events

Ferret Play Date Sun 7/27, 11-1 Mark & Jody’s in Cambridge.

Ferret Education/Adoption Day Sat, 8/9 12-2pm Petco N Andover

Cookout and Meeting (humans only) Sat 8/16, Kathy’s in Woburn

Ferret Education/Adoption Day Sat, 8/23 1-3pm Petco Auburn

Ferret Education/Adoption Day Sat, 9/13 12-2pm Petco Woburn

Octob-Fur-Fest, a Bavarian Ferret Frolic Our biggest event of the year Sun, 10/5, 11-3pm, Dedham

4 Li'l Paws Ferret Festival Sat, 10/11 Lion’s Club Hall, Londonderry, NH
More info at: maferrets.org. ❄

Octob-Eur-Fest

A Bavarian Ferret Frolic by MaFF

Sunday, October 5, 2014

11am - 3pm

Dedham VFW

84 Eastern Ave.

Dedham, MA



Sorry, no beer will be served.

Octob-Fur-Fest: A Bavarian Ferret Frolic. Sunday, October 5, 2014, 11am-3pm at the Dedham VFW, 84 Eastern Ave, Dedham MA. Featuring the world famous MaFF Ferret Playground, food, games, raffles, vendors and more. Theme costumes encouraged. Admission \$5 (\$3 for members).

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

 Find us on Facebook

Reiki For Ferrets

By Cathy Mallette, 2nd Degree Reiki Practitioner, owned by ferrets for over 20 years

Reiki (pronounced ray-kee) is a simple, safe, effective healing system that uses energy to help dissolve problems and return the body, mind, emotions and spirit to their natural perfect state.

Literally translated, Reiki means “universal life energy”. The Reiki Practitioner channels this energy through the hands into the receiver’s body simply by placing the hands lightly on the body in a sequence of positions lasting around 3-5 minutes each. Unlike massage, there is no body manipulation.

Reiki can be utilized to treat chronic, painful conditions such as arthritis, migraines and cancer as well as everyday situations like sinus issues, bruises, cuts, fatigue and injured bones.

Reiki is becoming recognized among health practitioners as a safe and highly effective complementary therapy to all other forms of health care.

Reiki is a wonderful stress-reducer for both humans and animals. It allows the body’s own immune systems to do its work to help heal. One of the greatest overall effects of a Reiki treatment is a very relaxed state of being.

Animals can benefit greatly from Reiki energy. Dogs, cats, bunnies, iguanas, ferrets, and other small animals enjoy it, as well as large animals such as horses, sheep, goats, pigs, and so on. The same kinds of illnesses and injuries that apply to humans often occur in animals and can be successfully treated with Reiki, including palliative care and support during end-of-life transition.

Reiki can be an ideal therapy for shelter animals. Many of these creatures have gone through pronounced trauma. Reiki can be one of the most beneficial forms of

love and caring that they could ever receive.

A Reiki treatment is normally done at the animal’s place of residence. The treatment may or may not be a hands-on, and this depends solely upon the animal itself. The best situation is one where the animal can be completely relaxed, in familiar surroundings.

The length of treatment varies, depending on numerous factors. It can last anywhere from 15-60 minutes. When treatment is done, the owner and practitioner confer and decide whether further treatment is necessary, depending upon the condition of the animal, and the problem being treated.

If you run a shelter and decide to offer Reiki to its precious occupants, seek a practitioner with Second degree training. First degree therapists are those at the basic level of training. Second degree has more experience and the ability to use distance healing. Masters are those who train others to use Reiki.

One caution is to never use Reiki on a fresh wound or injury. It should first be treated by a professional and then use Reiki to help promote healing and energy stabilization. Reiki is healing, not medicine, and should never be used in place of veterinary care. If your pet is ill or injured, call your veterinarian immediately.

A Personal Note

I have practiced Reiki on myself, my dog, my ferrets, medicine, food, and in so many other ways. Reiki is one of the most peaceful, calming, and incredible therapies I have ever experienced in my life. I strongly encourage you to share the experience and spread the word. ❄️

The Fuzzy Papers

Contributors: Michele Paulhus, Cathy Mallette, Skyla Fay, Jody Renouf & Mark Rosenstein. Send submissions to publications@maferrets.org.



Deaf or Not Listening?

By: Michele Paulhus

At times, it is difficult to tell if a ferret is deaf or not listening.

There are indications that a ferret is, if not totally deaf, at least partially so. Waardenburg Syndrome, a genetic disorder, was incidentally bred into ferrets when they were selectively bred for specific traits—in this case a white head (panda) and a white blaze on their head and some (less often) dark dyed whites. While not every panda or blaze is deaf, it is much more common than not.

There are also some experiments you can try. Hold the ferret facing you, have someone come up behind him and clap. If he does not react, then he could be deaf.

Also, many deaf ferrets do the “pez head”. If you hold him facing you, he might flip his head all the way back (like a pez dispenser) and that is because he is unable to hear what is behind him so he has to look for it.

Deaf ferrets are sometimes more reactive and are then labeled as “aggressive” because they are often startled and react with their teeth. They might be more likely to freak out at things that cause vibrations (such as vacuum cleaners) either because it’s exciting to feel it or it can be sensory overload.

Living with a deaf ferret is not so different from living with a hearing ferret. If you wish to further investigate the possibility that your ferret is deaf, you can consult a veterinary neurologist who can do further testing. ❄️