

The Fuzzy Papers

NEWSLETTER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS FERRET FRIENDS

FALL 2001



Letter from The President *MaFF Needs YOU!*

by Tracey Goodwin

MaFF has been very busy the last few months developing new educational materials, visiting pet stores, answering e-mail, attending meetings, rescuing ferrets, and raising funds to help support the organization and the shelters.

In the past 3 months, MaFF has hosted two events and participated in five other events. We have on our calendar to date six more events before the year is over. We also host a monthly board meeting, which is a public meeting that the membership is welcome to attend. All of these things happen with the help of very few volunteers. Our organization cannot continue on the road it is currently traveling. MaFF is an ALL VOLUNTEER organization, but we cannot possibly do all that is asked of us without the help of our members.

We are constantly being asked to help in one way or another, and we have been forced to decline many requests due to the lack of volunteers.

MaFF is called upon to provide valuable information regarding the proper care of ferrets, and it is very sad to see we cannot fulfill all requests. For each event we do not attend, it is a missed opportunity for MaFF to educate the public about ferrets, raise awareness of the ferrets in the shelter system looking for homes, gain new members, and raise funds.

We answer numerous e-mails and calls on a weekly basis from people asking for advice about ferrets, and sadly, where they can surrender their ferret. Local animal shelters including the MSPCA and ARL contact us to come, take ferrets out of their shelter system, and transfer them into one of our shelters. The shelter moms work tirelessly to ensure that the ferrets that need and deserve shelter get it. This often means going to pick up these ferrets or arranging for transport, and accepting a ferret into their home that has an unknown medical and behavioral background.

At any given time our shelters are dealing with syringe feedings, bites issues, ill ferrets, surgeries and have to deal with the heartache of losing an ill ferret. This is in addition to routine ear cleaning, nail clipping, cage cleaning and laundry. Jo Fowler, Janice DeJesus and Donna Spirito do this every single day, without fanfare, and want only to find these ferrets a permanent, loving home. The shelters do all of this with the help of their families and a handful of volunteers.

I ask each of you to take a moment and look at your schedule, and find one day that you can devote to helping MaFF, or one of the shelters. We are not asking for more than a few hours of your time to help us fulfill our mission statement of *Education, Outreach and Shelter*. For more information on how you can help, please send an e-mail to president@maferrets.org

To those of you who have helped MaFF or volunteer your time at the shelters, my heartfelt thanks for your support.

If You Are Called...

by the MaFF Board of Directors

SOONER or later, it's going to happen to you. You're a member of MaFF, and you've volunteered a few times for MaFF, and you've brought MaFF literature and flyers to your local pet store, and they've gotten to know you there as "the ferret

lady" or "ferret man." In the past, you've answered questions, or pet store people have referred their customers to you as a resource person on ferrets, and you've even passed along information about MaFF shelters a few times. Suddenly one day, there's

a call and it's about an abandoned ferret that needs rescuing. What do you do?!

To help you in such a situation, MaFF's Board has drafted specific policies. It's probably best that you read them now, so if (or rather WHEN) you find yourself in this situation, you'll know what you can do as a MaFF

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(If You Are Called..., Continued)

member. Remember that nothing prevents you from taking responsibility and acting on your own as an individual citizen, but if you do so, you must recognize that any action you take is outside of your membership in MaFF. In general, it is best that you contact someone within MaFF's Board or Shelter System before you take action, as MaFF is there to help you in just such a case. So, with no further introduction, here's the actual written policy:

MaFF Policy on Ferret Rescues

1) A member of MaFF may not repre-

sent himself (or herself) as an official MaFF representative, unless specifically directed to do so by the Board of Directors, as in the case of a member who has volunteered to handle education and outreach at a specific pet store and who has been approved for that responsibility by the Board of Directors. A member of MaFF, when conducting business in any pet store, does so as a customer of that store and not as a MaFF representative. The same policy holds true regarding any discussions with individuals on ferret care or medical issues concerning ferrets.

2) Any MaFF member, if contacted by a pet store, individual or organization regarding an abandoned ferret, should not accept nor take into his/her possession any abandoned ferret with the sole purpose of providing shelter and/or rescue services for that ferret unless that MaFF member is a state-licensed shelter operator or MaFF

Shelter Coordinator. The handling of abandoned / rescued ferrets shall follow the regulations as outlined by the Department of Public Health of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. If a MaFF member is contacted by a pet store, individual or organization regarding an abandoned and/or rescued ferret, the MaFF member is to then contact a state-licensed shelter operator or the MaFF Shelter Coordinator and report the name of the pet store, individual or organization and any other pertinent information necessary for the expedient pickup and transportation of the ferret to a shelter.

3) If a member of MaFF accepts the responsibility of an abandoned and/or rescued ferret, he/she does so as an individual, not as a member of MaFF, and will be responsible for any and all financial obligations attached to the care of that ferret.

The Fuzzy Papers

*Is a publication of the
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(MaFF)*

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and other information,
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invited and encouraged.

Send articles or ideas for articles to the
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At Least a Weasel

by Phyllis Spy

"LET'S meet in Natick, drive to South Hadley and attend the next meeting of The Educated Ferret hosted by Donna Spirito."

The Board of Directors, during one of their informal meetings, decided to attend the next meeting of The Educated Ferret to be held in South Hadley. It was arranged to have Mark pick me up in Wareham, after work, meet Tracey in Natick, and then drive to South Hadley in one vehicle. Sounds pretty simple, doesn't it? Well, simple is the farthest thing from what occurred on the evening of July 23rd!!

Mark met me, as scheduled, and as we were getting onto Route 495 for the drive to Natick, he asked, "How do you feel about doing a ferret rescue?" Having never participated in a ferret rescue, I eagerly announced that I would love to. So, Mark outlined

the details for me. It seemed that Jan, his wife and operator of Gimmee Shelter Ferret Rescue, had received a call from an elderly gentleman in Leominster, who had captured a ferret in a "Hav-A-Heart" trap and didn't know what to do with it. Jan, after getting some information on the ferret, told the gentleman to just leave it in the trap and her husband would drive there to pick it up on his way to South Hadley. So far everything seemed pretty easy to coordinate. Mark called Donna from his cell phone and asked if any of her club members would be coming from the Leominster area. Donna explained that Diane Whitney could swing by, pick up the ferret and transport it to the meeting, where Mark would then take it to their shelter in Wareham. Again I repeat ... everything still seems quite simple.

(Continued on Next Page)

(At Least a Weasel, Continued)

We met Tracey in Natick and explained the ferret rescue situation to her and we all agreed that our plan up to this point was satisfactory for all concerned. We arrived at Donna's in South Hadley and spent some time meeting all the ferrets and the club members of The Educated Ferret. Diane still hadn't arrived, so it was decided to start the meeting while we waited for her arrival with the ferret.

About 30 minutes into the meeting, the phone rang and it was Diane calling to say that she was in Athol and that the ferret had gotten loose in the cab of the truck and the State Police were trying to help her catch it to replace it in the carrier. On hearing this, Mark, Tracey and I looked at each other, and with the same thought in mind, started to leave to find Diane to help her retrieve the ferret. However, we didn't have a clue as to where in Athol she was located, so we decided to call Diane's husband and ask him to call her cell phone and have her call us back with directions to her location.

Since there was nothing to be done but wait for Diane's call, Donna continued with the meeting. After about another 30 minutes or so, Diane appeared at the back door looking pretty haggard. We asked her if she was alright and did she have the ferret. "Well," Diane said, "I'm okay, but I drove here with the ferret still loose in the cab of my truck." Tracey and I looked at Mark and asked, "Do you have a pair of heavy gloves and a flashlight?" Mark, without any hesitation, got his gloves and flashlight and we all proceeded out to Diane's truck, where we discussed ideas for safely capturing the ferret and returning it to the carrier.

After determining that the ferret must be under the seat, Mark carefully opened the driver's door, just enough to get a look inside. If anyone is familiar with the cab of a Chevy S-10 pickup truck, you know that the back of the front seat flips forward to reveal a small area where you can store more

"stuff" that you need. Mark looked under the seat, behind the seat, in front of the seat and still saw NO ferret. Finally we all heard Mark exclaim, "Oh, no! Guess what we have here?" Now everyone is crowding up to the windows of the truck to catch a glimpse of ... a Least Weasel!!

By this time Donna had brought out a variety of containment devices — everything from a small cat carrier to a bird cage — anticipating that one of them would work with this tiny animal. In the meantime, Mark moved from the driver's side of the truck to the passenger's side of the truck — all in vain in trying to corner this little weasel. Then the suggestions began. We had one person saying to leave the door open and it will come out, while another suggested using a shop vac to suck it out. Since neither of these ideas seemed appropriate for the weasel, it was finally decided that Mark, Tracey and I would drive the truck to a location that we felt would suit the needs of our Least Weasel and release him / her there. The three of us climbed into the truck, with Tracey and I keeping our feet up off the floor while Mark drove the truck, with standard transmission and floor shift I might add, out of the center of South Hadley in search of a perfect new home for our little friend sequestered under the seat of the truck. Not being familiar with the area, we drove, taking left and right turns based on gut feelings, until we passed a marina near some power lines. It was very secluded with nice fresh water nearby, lots of frogs croaking in the distance, and plenty of high grass for a weasel

to tunnel through. We took a turn onto a dirt road and stopped the truck knowing that this was the perfect new home for this little animal.

We piled out of the truck, leaving the passenger's door open. As we watched from the back of the truck, we waited while our little passenger slowly emerged. As he sat at the edge of the floorboard, with the full moon illuminating the grassy meadow in front of him, our Least Weasel carefully jumped to the ground and in a flash of brown ... he was GONE. Before climbing back into the truck for the drive back to Donna's, we wished our little friend safe hunting and a full happy life in his new home.

In conclusion, there are several things I would like to clarify — 1) when responding to a call concerning a ferret, particularly one that has been captured outdoors in a trap, make sure that the animal is in fact a ferret, and not a distant cousin, the Least Weasel. The coloring of the Least Weasel is very distinctive and is not common to the coloring or markings found in the Domestic Ferret. 2) Technically, a wild animal, when trapped, should be released in the same general location where it was trapped. And, 3) should you be bitten or scratched by the animal, you should report this to a physician immediately and obtain the necessary vaccinations to prevent infection from rabies, etc.

I must admit that my first experience with a ferret rescue is one I will never forget and am still looking forward to the day when I can participate in a rescue where I can say, "At least it's not a weasel!"

ADVERTISE IN THE FUZZY PAPERS

Run YOUR display ads or flyers

Contact Jan Fleury at 508 478 2750
or jfleury@maferrets.org for details.

*Make a contribution to
MaFF's Shelter Fund.
Please do it today.*

The Fuzzy Papers

Deadlines for Submissions to
Upcoming Issues of
The Fuzzy Papers

For the Winter 2001 Issue

Friday, November 16, 2001

For the Spring 2002 Issue

Saturday, February 16, 2002

For the Summer 2002 Issue

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Snailmail your submissions to:
MaFF / *The Fuzzy Papers*
PO Box 3123
Wakefield, MA 01880
Or email to:
jfleury@maferrets.org

**WRITERS!
PHOTOGRAPHERS!
SUBMISSIONS SOUGHT!**

Submissions to this publication in the
form of articles, letters, or
photographs, are
invited and encouraged.

Please feel free to send your
submissions to the
MaFF address above,
or via e-mail to Jan Fleury at
jfleury@maferrets.org

Articles or letters can be neatly
handwritten, or typed, or submitted
via e-mail or on 3.5" IBM formatted
diskette as plain ASCII text.

Photos can be prints or
transparencies, must have permission
of those depicted,
and can be in either color
or black & white.

If you wish to e-mail photo images,
kindly e-mail us first at
jfleury@maferrets.org, for advice on
sending image files via e-mail.



Ferret Kisses

a poem by Crystal I. Ferraro

Ferret kisses are sometimes
an expression of appreciation...

for opening a cage door,
for scratching the exact spot on the back of a neck,
or for giving treats.

Ferret kisses are sometimes
an expression of love...

when I'm sacrificing my feet,
when I hold them close,
when I am all that they know.

Ferret kisses are sometimes
an effort to appease me...

when my interest in them postpones play time,
when discipline is in order,
or when nothing else has won me over.

Ferret kisses ...
they are always accepted!

The One Left Behind

Anonymous

I await my turn
my eyes are bright.
I cavort and play
will this be my night?

Will I be noticed;
did I play my part?
Do I have a chance,
did I steal a heart?

I'm a little too scruffy
should I have been bold?
My coat isn't new . . .
am I too old?

This was not my day
I've been passed by.
Sure hope someone takes me
before I'm too old and die.

CRAFTERS WANTED

On December 1, 2001, New
England Ferret Foster, Education,
and Rescue, Inc. (NEFFER) will be
holding a craft fair at the Amherst
Middle School in Amherst, MA.

We have two different size spaces
available, and we are looking
for crafters of all media: clay,
fabric, photography, wood, metal,
jewelry, and mixed media.

If you'd like more information on
our craft fair and an exhibitor
application, call us at 413 323

8755 or e-mail us at
NEferrets@hotmail.com.

MaFF at Weekend FULL of Events and Volunteers Like YOU Help Make It Possible!

by Tracey Goodwin

RECENTLY MaFF was asked to attend three events, all occurring over a single weekend. Well, it is sometimes difficult to get volunteers for one event on a weekend, especially during the warm summer months, so how would we ever get volunteers to staff THREE events?

An e-mail was sent to the membership stating our situation, and asking for anyone willing to come to an event for a few hours to help us in our education efforts. Many members were kind enough to respond — many of them not able to attend these weekend events, but offering to help in the future. Because of this, MaFF was able to be present at these important education events to meet tons of people, answer ferret related questions, and raise some much needed funds.

My heartfelt thanks go to: Bill Williamson, Andrea Stevenson, Trudy Wallach, Mark DeJesus, Phyllis Spy, Crystal Ferraro, and all the ferrets who came with their owners to show people just how very well behaved ferrets really are!

Tufts University Veterinary Medicine Open House

MaFF was once again invited to attend the annual Tufts Open House, a very important education event. Many families attend the Open House each year, and we knew it would be important to have a ferret or two at the table at all times. This is the best way for us to initially attract people, and the children really enjoy visiting with the ferrets while the parents learn more about them.

So off we went at 7:30 AM. I had my ferret Mulligan, new to attending such events, with me. We met Bill Williamson there, and he brought his ferret Trixie, adopted from Luv of Ferrets Shelter. We set up the table and were ready to go. Mulligan and Trixie took turns being good little ferret ambassadors, letting people pat them without squirming too much. After a few hours they were both totally exhausted. At 11AM we had our next round of volunteers arriving, and what a surprise we had! Andrea Stevenson brought two ferrets: Mushu and Pooh

Bear, and Trudy Wallach also brought two ferrets: Dweasle and Carmelita. These ferrets came just in time, because Mulligan and Trixie sure did need a rest.

Now we had a whole table full of cages and ferrets, some sleeping, some playing in their cages, some making a mess, and a few out for people to pat. We had tons of children at the table all day, each asking very good questions regarding ferrets and their care. Carmelita, who had adrenal surgery in August, was proud to show the sutures on her belly, and it was an invaluable tool to demonstrate that while ferrets may become ill, there are medications and surgery to help them. Carmelita proved that a few stitches can't slow a ferret down!

Our table was busy with visitors all day, and we handed out shelter information to many people looking to adopt ferrets, and we met many folks interested in learning more about owning ferrets. We were even invited to visit an elementary school in Northboro to educate the children about proper care of their pets.

My thanks to all of the volunteers, and especially to Trixie, Mulligan, Mushu, Pooh Bear, Dweasle, and Carmelita for being perfect ferrets.

"Ferrets Without Hope" or "Winning the Lottery"

by Janice DeJesus, Gimme Shelter Ferret Rescue

NOISILY the panda-faced, roman-nosed little girl ferret drinks from her water bowl. I open one eye and look at her. Some ferret sense mandates that she knows the second I stir. Her head pops up and she runs to the cage door. With the door opened, the tiny girl — totally bare from the shoulders back to the tip of her tail — bounces, jumps, flips, and dooks.

A happy girl. You did not know you lost the lottery. Your "parents"

picked you out of all the kits at the store but did not care enough four years later to NOT drop you at the rescue league when you got "sick." You are older now and not very pretty to look at any more. Stop that happy dancing. You have no reason to be so.

The rescue league brought you to the vet.

"Euthanize," said one man.

Another said, "Let's wait. See if the ferret rescue can help."

So maybe the lottery wheel is

being spun again. Maybe it will stop in your favor this time. Are the odds with you? Is there a vacant spot at the ferret shelter? Is there enough money in the fund to help you? Are there enough hearts left in the world to help you heal?

So dance and twist and dook and play. Surgery is only a day away. You live through that and now comes the hard part: finding you a home, a new parent who will open their heart to you. An old an imperfect ferret needs a place to play where love and laughter is part of their day.

So when the lottery wheel begins to spin, we'll have a space to take the next one in.

Ferrets and Their Humans Attend Pet Rock

by Crystal Ferraro

ON Sunday, August 9, a handful of fuzzies and their humans enjoyed a beautiful day outdoors at the 2001 Pet Rock in Shrewsbury, MA. The MaFF volunteers were assisted with their education efforts by three fuzzies who own and were accompanied by MaFF Clerk Phyllis Spy. Although Molly, Joshua, and Toby were tired from the previous day's events at Ferretstock II (Marlborough, NH), the sleeping trio won over many onlookers. MaFF President Tracey Goodwin, Vice President Mark DeJesus, and Education Committee Chair Crystal Ferraro also provided their ferret knowledge.

As one of only three ferret-related vendors present, the MaFF vol-

unteers had the pleasure of meeting each ferret in attendance at the Pet Rock. The event was largely dominated by dogs of every shape, size, and color imaginable. And after walking past dozens of canine-related vendors, we could see the sparkle in the ferrets' eyes when they saw our banner: "Massachusetts Ferret Friends."

Several humans were led to the MaFF booth by fuzzies on leashes that were anxious to greet one (or three!) of their own. Others came in the arms of their humans, where they could get a good view of the fert toys MaFF had for sale. The MaFF human volunteers shared their fuzzy knowledge and stories while the fuzzbutts looked in on Molly, Joshua, and Toby to confirm

that they weren't the only ferrets in attendance at this event.

Curious onlookers, many of whom had questions that were promptly answered by MaFF volunteers, also visited our booth. Common questions dealt with health and behavioral issues — proving that more education is desperately needed for the general public and ferret owners alike. Most — if not all — of our visitors walked away with medical and shelter handouts.

All in all, the Pet Rock was a fun event enjoyed by both two-legged and four-legged creatures. Our only hope is that next year the MaFF booth will be visited by even more of our beloved carpet sharks.

Regarding September 11th

Normally, there would be something one could say, but instead I find myself stunned to silence. Instead, I leave each of you to your own thoughts and can only ask that while we remember the humans we also remember the animals (ferrets and all others, too). —Ed.

NHFOC is rescheduling Ferret Awareness Day, which was originally set to occur at the Nashua Armory on September 15th. The event will be rescheduled. They still need help with the event, whenever it does happen. You can call Joan at 603 424 5140 to get more information and volunteer to help.

If you have access to the Internet, see
www.aspca.org
www.hsus.org/disaster/terrorist_attack.html
www.fema.gov/emanagers/natsitup.htm

ASPCA in NYC is working with Anne Ryan (e-mail: ducklite@aol.com) of Fuzztek Central on ferret rescues and sheltering.

The All NEW MaFF Website!

MaFF's website has undergone a reconstruction!

MaFF vice president Mark DeJesus has been working with the Board and with other MaFF web masters past and present (including Karl Zimmerman and Bryan Coffey — our sincere thanks to these unsung heroes as well, for all their help with MaFF's website!) to relocate and rebuild the site.

We are now back online, up and running, at our previous location: www.maferrets.org

So stop by and visit us if you haven't done so in a while!

Books Available from MaFF

The following books can be purchased from MaFF. Proceeds go to benefit MaFF's mission of shelter, education, and outreach.

Essentials of Ferrets – A Guide for Practitioners

by Karen Purcell, DVM — \$49

The Ferret — An Owner's Guide to a Happy Healthy Pet

by Mary Shefferman — \$12

Ferrets for Dummies

by Kim Schilling — \$19.50

Practical Guide to Ferret Care

by Debra Jeans — \$18

The Pet Ferret Owner's Manual

by Judith Bell, DVM, Ph.D. — \$12

Add \$4 to the above prices for shipping and handling, and send your order to: MaFF, PO Box 3123, Wakefield, MA 01880. Or, for more information, send e-mail to info@maferrets.org.

The Adventures of MacLeod MacFerret Episode 10: Jack-O-Lantern

by Barbaralee Baron and Cyndi Farr

I love the autumn. Crisp leaves crunching under paws. The leaves sporting their new fall colors of burgundy, gold and orange. The smell of the air. It's also time to pick apples and pumpkins. Anywhere you travel through the New England countryside you see a roadside stand offering these tempting delights. I love pumpkins. Every year at this time Mom, Taz and I go to the pumpkin patch and pick one these orange squashes to carve. Mom calls them Jack-O-Lanterns. In the old days people would carve scary faces on them and put candles inside them for light, and place them in their windows. They were meant to keep all ghost and goblins away. Silly humans.

This year we got a huge pumpkin. Mom placed newspapers on the table and began. There's a special process you must go through when it comes to creating a scary face. She began by cutting a hole in the top and started pulling out the seeds and pulp. It was squishy and slimy. As she took the seeds out, she brought them to the sink to be rinsed, then placed them in a bowl of salt water to soak

overnight. Later she would bake them in the oven. Yummy. Now comes the fun part.

I tried to help scrape the insides by crawling in, but Mom decided to use a scoop like tool. Personally I liked my way better. Raw pumpkin tastes good. After much thought, we decided on a super scary face. She outlined the design on the pumpkin first. Then with very sharp knives and something that resembled a saw, she began to cut and hack. It looked like she was creating a sculpture. Slowly the face came to life. When she was satisfied, she rinsed and salted the insides again and placed a candle inside it. As night fell, she lit the candle and voilà! Mr. Jack-O-Lantern came alive. He looked out the window for all to see. He was eerie in appearance as he glowed. No ghost or goblins would dare to try and visit our house. Maybe a witch or two, but then again that's another story.

Stay Tuned for Episode 11!



MaFF Is on eBay and iGive

Have you visited eBay, the famous Internet auction web site (www.ebay.com)? If not, have a look, because MaFF is posting items for auction on eBay on a regular basis, with proceeds from all sales going towards MaFF's funds. To find out if MaFF has any items posted for sale, simply do a keyword search of titles using the word "MaFF."

Our presence on eBay is thanks to the ongoing efforts of MaFF's Merchandise Chairperson, Amy Robbin.

While you're shopping online, don't forget to visit iGive (www.igive.com). When you sign up, you can select Massachusetts Ferret Friends as your favorite cause, AND you can send e-mail to all your friends right from iGive, and invite them to shop there, too! Thanks to Tracey Goodwin for getting MaFF listed there.

***There's No Time Like
the Present . . . Join the MaFF NOW!***

*If you're not already a contributor to the MaFF, or if you'd like to renew your membership,
you can do so by filling out this coupon and sending it in, or send email to
info@maferrets.org, or call us at 781 / 224 1098 for a contribution form.*

Please indicate one of the following — New Membership Renewal

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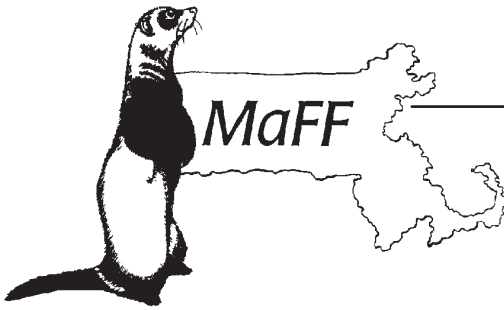
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Your contribution is valid for one year from date of issue and includes a MaFF card, a subscription to the MaFF newsletter, *The Fuzzy Papers*, and special offers on ferret-related items from other interested businesses and organizations. Massachusetts Ferret Friends, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Please send this coupon, along with your contribution as a check or money order to: Massachusetts Ferret Friends, Inc., PO Box 3123, Wakefield, MA 01880



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website, now once again
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Latest News on the Legalization of Ferrets in the City of Lynn

by Sharon Burbine
MaFF Special Investigations

I'd like to take this opportunity to update MaFF on the situation in Lynn. First and foremost, I'd like to publically thank all of you for your continued support. Without you and others showing your support at these hearings, we never would have gotten this far. That, my dear ferret friends, is a fact! The Ordinance Committee has made it known to me that your presence certainly made a difference in their opinions on this matter. So given that, thank you all.

As you know, the ordinance banning ferrets in Lynn was amended. Unfortunately, what happened was that the permit restriction was still included. The mayor signed this version and it became law on July 13th, 2001.

After learning that the ordinance was passed with the permit restriction in place, I contacted Mr. Phalen who assured me that an appeal would be put into motion. Two weeks ago I learned of the upcoming hearing from Mr. Phalen and the *Lynn Item* had it published. One of the promises that I made to the Ordinance Committee was that once the ban was lifted, with no restrictions, that we would celebrate publically and invite them down to see ferrets and their owners. What better way could we promote ferret awareness along with the chance for the Committee to get a photo opportunity?.

I've updated Speedbump's ferret freedom page (pardon all of the Wolfie pics. He passed away the day before this ban was lifted and I've been heartbroken since). If you are planning on attending and need directions, you can also download them on this page:
<http://www.speedbumpwebdesigns.com/ferretfreedom/>

On the evening of October 2nd, there were other animal related hearings: one banning the feeding of wildlife (i.e. racoons and skunks), and the other about dogs in school yards. I am hopeful that many of those folks will stick around for the ferret issue.

Below is the text of the proposed new ordinance. Please take a moment to review it. It is my opinion that the wording is just right, exactly what we were looking for last February when we started this.

In the year two thousand and one an ordinance further amending an ordinance relative to licensing of animals within the city of Lynn.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Lynn and by the authority of the same as follows, to wit:

SECTION 1:00

An ordinance relative to licensing of animals within the City of Lynn is hereby established and said ordinance shall provide as follows:

...

C. Any and all ferrets subject to the requirements of the Ordinance, shall not, be considered exotic animals, but domesticated animals under this Ordinance and hence no permit shall be required by any governing in the City of Lynn.

D. All state and municipal rules, regulations, ordinance and orders relative to household pets regarding vaccinations, rabies and proper restraints shall apply equally to ferrets.

SECTION 2:00

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3:00

This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption and approval after advertising as adopted.

[*Lynn Item*: September 18, 2001]

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to attend this hearing...

I've always said that if this does pass, we will get together and promote ferrets publically here in Lynn, so stay tuned.

If anyone wants to chat, you can reach me via cell: 617-957-6012 or thru e-mail at sburbine@aol.com.

For the ferrets, I wish to thank all of you.

Your ferret friend,
Sharon Burbine
MaFF Special Investigations