

My Trip to Petco

By Tuesday, with help from Jody Renouf

MaFF volunteers host adoption and education days at area pet stores. You can volunteer for these fun, highly social three hour shifts. The purpose of these pet store visits to tell people about ferrets, answer questions, demonstrate ferret care, reach out to new contacts, and gain exposure for the adoptable ferrets and foster network. Pair off with an experienced volunteer to try it out. You'll bring adoption applications, MaFF pamphlets, business cards, and an email list sign-up sheet. Most importantly, bring a ferret or two! While we would prefer to bring adoptable ferrets, sometimes the adoptable ferrets aren't nearby. In that case, volunteers bring their own ferrets as MaFF ambassadors. Mark and Jody's ferret, Tuesday, tells *The Fuzzy Papers* about her most recent experience:

I like the carrier. It has just enough room for all the good stuff—food, bed, toys, water, food, my silly sister—and it smells like the basement. And the carrier goes places! So where are we going today? We haven't left yet, but I am in the carrier because it's a great place to catch some beauty sleep. Or, I would be sleeping if our humans weren't so busy running around the house. They're gathering my bed, my litter box, my toys, my tube, the big white fence that's just a little too high for me to climb over, and all of that



paper—not the smudgy paper the humans put on the floor next to the litter box I don't like. These papers look official and colorful—pink, green, yellow, blue—folded and creased like very flat little blankets.

Slam! The carrier is closed now, and we are on our way somewhere, bouncing along. My silly sister doesn't like to travel, but she does like to dig! So she digs at the carrier door, and she moves all the blankets, and moves me too, so she can dig even better.

We're here—finally. It smells like lots of tasty kibbles, scrumptious treats, and all different kinds of fur, and my kind of fur too! Click. The carrier is open, and my silly sister and I are inside the tall white fence. My food, water, toys, and tube are all here. I must search the perimeter to make sure that everything is where it should be. Our humans are fussing over colorful paper arrangement on a table. They even clipped a big banner on our fence with little clips that go “sproing!” when my silly sister digs at them. She likes to dig. Our humans like to fuss over papers and clips. They smile a lot, too and jabber with the other humans.

Just when I'm ready to have a drink from my precious water bowl, our human—the one that smells

like coffee—picks me up, and shows me to a strange little human who smells like Cheerios. This little person (human kit?) is petting me, and I'm thinking that this isn't so bad. Then, Woof! Bark! Yap!

I don't understand how other furry creatures can be so loud. Humans drag around these furry, four-pawed noisemakers who sniff and snuffle the outside of our fence, then Bark! again and again. Oh well, my silly sister has this covered. She's giving them the old “I'm cute, and what are you?” look through the fence. And it's working. Meanwhile, I've been passed to another human who smells like my kind of fur. This human newcomer knows just how to scratch behind my ears. I hope I'll get to meet this human again!

Humans must like to hear themselves speak. Less talk, and more petting, people! Oh, I didn't notice that our human—the one who smells like oranges—saddled my silly sister into a harness. She gets to explore the place, and sniff everything. I'm a little jealous, but I don't like harnesses much. I like to sniff on my own terms, if you know what I mean.

Back inside the fence, I run through the tube a few times, check on my toys, and then I am ready for some sleep. But the humans keep interrupting me! It's a good thing I like attention, and that I can sleep anywhere. The nice humans visiting right now are holding me while I nod off. Some would say that I am spoiled, but it's tough work being so social. 🐾

Our foster ferrets count on your membership dues.

Become a MaFF Member Today!

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

Using Social Media to Help Place Ferrets

By Kathy Street

Hi everyone, I just wanted to share with you some wonderful developments we have had over the last few months. Currently, MaFF isn't taking in any surrenders right now except *urgent* situations that are reviewed case by case. "What happens to some of these ferrets?" you ask. Well, rest assured we have been able to help place many ferrets in forever homes without ever taking them in. How? By using the Internet and social media tools such as Facebook. Some of our members have made many friends on Facebook and are involved with different ferret pages and groups which are being utilized to showcase ferrets in need of a new home. We have been able to help people in need of surrendering a ferret meet up with people wanting to adopt.

In the beginning of November there was a post on Facebook about two ferrets left outside in a cage in Worcester. By reposting it in different areas (and friends reposting) we reached someone who was eager to take them in. These two ferrets went to their new forever home a few days after being taken in off the streets.

On November 4, MaFF received an email from someone in West Virginia that had a ferret walk up their driveway. They tried to keep her while trying to find her a home but had no luck. They reached out to us and other shelters for help. After posting it on Facebook we got a "hit" from someone in Maryland. Coincidentally the woman that had the ferret was going to be in Maryland over Thanksgiving and the two parties were able to meet up and now the ferret is in a new forever home!

On Nov 24 someone posted on the MaFF Facebook page that they had two ferrets they needed to find a home for. Not wanting to surrender

them to a shelter she worked with me and Diddy. We posted pictures again and Diddy reviewed some applications that she had and by December 1st a new home was found for them!

In December a woman who became seriously ill could no longer take care of her ferrets and she reached out to MaFF. We posted their information and pictures on Facebook, our website, and Petfinder. Bandit & Tobi went to their new home on 1/28/12! Also we had someone ask if we could take in 4 of their ferrets, Loki, Odin, Snowball & Lyndsay and that they needed to stay together. We posted again and on 1/13/12 the owner was able to get them into a new home.

In the beginning of January a woman who had rescued ferrets just had her first child. Feeling that she didn't have enough time for her ferrets she reached out to us. We again posted pictures and bios and on 1/14 someone met her to look at the ferrets.

On January 7 Diddy received 6 ferrets from an Animal Control abuse case. With the power of the Internet and being able to meet new people in Mass we were able to place these ferrets into foster homes. Two of them were placed on the North Shore (yes we've expanded)! Even better, they went to their new home on 2/11/12 to someone we met and interviewed at two Adoption/Education Days, they are now members!

The last few months have been very rewarding with discovering new ways to reach people looking to adopt and helping those in need of surrendering. Never underestimate the power of "social media". Even if you can't make it to our A/E Days or foster you can help by reposting pictures and information of ferrets that are in need of a forever home. You never know when a friend of a friend has a friend that may be the answer. Every little bit helps us and it is truly appreciated. To everyone that has helped out **I thank you!** ❄️

Cool Cribs

This is where Coyle, Mari, Latte, Squishy, Truffy, Rucker, Aurora, Marty, Koa, Emma, Roxanne, Binkle, & Zoe live at Michele's:



While they are restricted to one room, they are rarely caged. This is where they hang out. The frame was originally sold as a modular cat toy, then modified for ferrets. ❄️

Upcoming Events

Ferret Education/Adoption Day

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

MaFF General Meeting: Elections and Ferret Freedom Day Celebration
Sun, Mar 18 12:00pm-4:00pm
Mark & Jody's in Cambridge.

Ferret Education/Adoption Day

Sat, 3/31 12-3pm Petco Brighton

Ferret Education/Adoption Day

Sat, 3/31 12-3pm Petco Woburn

Ferret Education/Adoption Day

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

Ferret Education/Adoption Day

Sat, 4/21 12-3pm Petco Dedham

Ferret Education/Adoption Day

Sat, 4/21 12-3pm Petco N Andover

See the complete schedule on our web site: maferrets.org. ❄️

The Fuzzy Papers

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