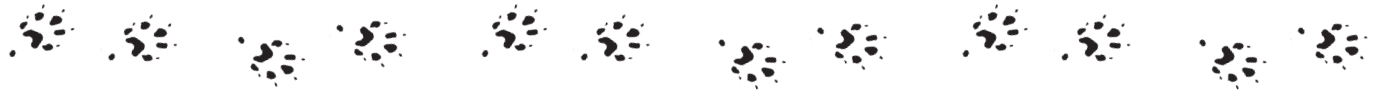


# The Fuzzy Papers

NEWSLETTER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS FERRET FRIENDS  
SPRING 2008



## Letter from the President

by Phyllis M. Spy

**L**AST year, 2007, was filled with much activity for MaFF and its members. We started off the year exhibiting at the Pet Expo in Rhode Island in March. The MaFF Playground (donated by Alan and Joanne Ouellette) along with the many MaFF shelter ferrets ("donated" by Trudy Wallach) were a great crowd-pleaser and drew in a number of people interested in adopting and/or fostering ferrets. See Pet Expo (Box, Page Two).

The following weekend found us trekking off to Cambridge, where our First General Meeting and election of our Vice-President and Treasurer was hosted again by Mark Rosenstein and Jody Renouf. Their Mexican Buffet was a great success! Alan and Joanne were awarded the 2007 MaFF Ferret Appreciation Award for their commitment and dedication to fostering ferrets, maintaining the MaFF Playground and many other donations to MaFF. See General Meeting (Box, Page Two).

In May, Joanne and I attended Heritage Days at the North Attleboro Middle School (our third year to be invited), where we conduct 5 lectures consisting of a slide show on the history of the domestic ferret. We brought a small playground and a few ferrets to the delight of the students. This year one of the students contacted MaFF a few weeks later and eventually became a new ferret mommy. See Heritage Days (Box, Page Two).

Later in the month, we attended the annual Pet Fest in New Bedford, which has been an annual MaFF event for many years. Again the MaFF Playground and shelter ferrets drew a huge crowd of people to enjoy their antics. See Pet Fest (Box, Page Two).

June found MaFF members gathering at the home of Alan and Jo for the 2nd General Meeting and Potluck Buffet. As always, it was a pleasure to meet up with the members and chat about... what else, but Ferrets! We also started filming the first of a series of education CDs. This first CD in the series covered general ferret hygiene, nail trimming, ear cleaning, and dental care. Joanne's foster and personal ferrets volunteered their services as we filmed each procedure. Editing and soundtrack will be added as time allows. See Meeting and Potluck (Box, Page Two).

After a month off to enjoy our fuzzies, we met again in July for the MaFF Annual Picnic hosted by Diane Wall of South Shore Ferret Care. Again the MaFF Playground was a huge hit with all the visiting ferrets. Bill Harkins was the head chef and kept up with the constant stream of requests for "burgers and dogs." See Annual Picnic (Box, Page Two).

In early September, we were off again with the MaFF Playground and MaFF shelter ferrets for the Tufts Open House. This is one of our favorite events as everyone at the event

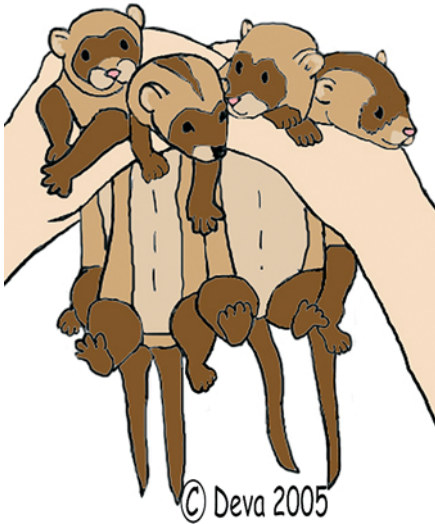
(staff, committee members, and attendees) enjoys and welcomes the ferrets. See Tufts Open House (Box, Page Two).

The following weekend found us hosting our annual fundraiser. This year's theme was Ferrets of the Caribbean. Due to inclement weather, we were forced to take the event inside the AmVets hall, but that didn't dampen anyone's spirits. There were plenty of vendors with ferret "wares" and lots of challenging games for the ferrets. The winner of this year's Tube Race was Ranger, who is serving as the 2008 MaFF Mascot and will be King Ranger at this year's King Ranger's Faire to be held in September. See Ferrets of the Caribbean (Box, Page Two).

Then it was the Ohio Rescue, which will be covered in more detail in the next issue of *The Fuzzy Papers*. MaFF took in 6 ferrets: 3 hobs and 3 jills. See Ohio Rescue (Box, Page Two).

We rounded out the year with the 2007 Ferret Giving Tree Party hosted by Alan and Joanne, where we gathered to put together packages to be sent to shelters listed on the 2007 Ferret Giving Tree. We also had the opportunity to meet Sierra and light a Sierra's Special Christmas Tree. Ornaments for the tree were supplied with donations from members and friends. Money raised was donated back to the MaFF Shelter Fund. See Giving Tree (Box, Page Two).

The year ended with MaFF volunteers at PETCO, North Dartmouth for their "Picture of your Pet with Santa." This was such fun and very successful for both MaFF and PETCO. We took 109 pictures of pets



## The Fuzzy Papers

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invited and encouraged.

Send articles or ideas for articles to the  
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Spy at [publications@maferrets.org](mailto:publications@maferrets.org)

sitting on Santa Bill's lap. The North  
Dartmouth store came in First Place  
on the East Coast for total number of  
pictures taken at PETCO stores that  
day!! See Petco, North Dartmouth  
(Box, Below).

I foresee that 2008 will be an-  
other year filled with MaFF activities,  
fundraisers and events, where we  
can continue to educate people

about the joys of being owned by  
ferrets.

I would like to extend a big  
Thank You to all the volunteers and  
fuzzies, who helped to make all this  
possible. Without your commitment  
and dedication, we would not be able  
to continue with the work we love  
helping the ferrets. ■

## URL References / See Pix!

**See these links for pictures referenced in the President's Letter:**

Pet Expo: [www.maferrets.org/gallery2/v/album\\_011/](http://www.maferrets.org/gallery2/v/album_011/)

General Meeting: [www.maferrets.org/gallery2/v/ffd07/](http://www.maferrets.org/gallery2/v/ffd07/)

Heritage Days: [www.maferrets.org/gallery2/v/HeritagedaysMay11\\_2007/](http://www.maferrets.org/gallery2/v/HeritagedaysMay11_2007/)

Pet Fest: [www.maferrets.org/gallery2/v/album\\_012/](http://www.maferrets.org/gallery2/v/album_012/)

Meeting and Potluck: [www.maferrets.org/gallery2/v/album\\_013/](http://www.maferrets.org/gallery2/v/album_013/)

Annual Picnic: [www.maferrets.org/gallery2/v/album\\_014/](http://www.maferrets.org/gallery2/v/album_014/)

Tufts Open House: [www.maferrets.org/gallery2/v/album\\_015/](http://www.maferrets.org/gallery2/v/album_015/)

Ferrets of the Caribbean: [www.maferrets.org/gallery2/v/album\\_016/](http://www.maferrets.org/gallery2/v/album_016/)

Ohio Rescue: [www.maferrets.org/gallery2/v/Ohio+ferrets/](http://www.maferrets.org/gallery2/v/Ohio+ferrets/)

Giving Tree: [www.maferrets.org/gallery2/v/album\\_019/](http://www.maferrets.org/gallery2/v/album_019/)

Petco, North Dartmouth: [www.maferrets.org/gallery2/v/album\\_020/](http://www.maferrets.org/gallery2/v/album_020/)

## Pet Insurance

*by Tressie Dutchyn*

**O**NE piece of advice prospective  
ferrets owners receive is to  
expect high veterinary costs  
because our little fuzzies are prone to  
a host of illnesses, especially as they  
age. If you are an experienced ferret  
owner, you already are aware of how  
quickly veterinary bills can add up  
when your little one needs veterinary  
care. The last thing you need to be  
worried about is how much it is going  
to cost before proceeding with the  
best possible treatment or care  
whether it is diagnostics, medications,  
hospitalization or surgery.

Unfortunately, every year a  
number of ferrets are euthanized or  
surrendered to shelters because their  
owners simply cannot afford the  
costly veterinary bills associated with  
an accident or illness.

There is an option to help defray

costs - pet insurance. Fortunately, if  
you live in the United States, you can  
get pet insurance for ferrets; this is  
not the case for countries like Canada  
where it is not available. Pet  
insurance offers you peace of mind.

After extensive research, it  
would appear only one insurance  
company offers coverage for ferrets  
in the U.S. and that is, the National  
Casualty Company, more commonly  
known as VPI Insurance. The VPI  
Avian & Exotic Pet Plan provides  
coverage for ferrets and other exotic  
pets. As with any other kind of  
medical insurance, what you need to  
consider are premiums, deductibles  
and coverage.

The base premium for ferrets is  
\$108.00 per year per ferret or you can  
opt to pay a monthly premium of  
\$11.00 that includes a \$2.00 handling  
fee if coming directly out of your  
bank account. The plan allows  
\$2,000.00 maximum per accident or  
illness and \$7,000.00 per policy term

of one year. The deductible is \$50.00 per veterinary visit. You can download the benefit schedule from: [www.petinsurance.com/downloads/Avian-Exotic-Ben-Sched-2002.pdf](http://www.petinsurance.com/downloads/Avian-Exotic-Ben-Sched-2002.pdf). Your fuzzy has to be at least 3 months of age at the time of enrollment and must have been in your possession for at least 60 days. It takes 2 weeks for the plan to kick in from the time of enrollment.

The plus is that the plan will pay up to 90% of the Benefit Schedule, or up to 90% of the veterinary bill, whichever is lower (after deductible) for treatments and surgeries for minor problems, as well as accidents and major illnesses like pneumonia, infection and cancer; and includes veterinary care anywhere in the world.

The downside is that it does not cover treatment of endocrine disorders or associated splenectomy of the ferret. Other exclusions include routine care i.e., vaccinations; spaying or descenting; teeth cleaning; conditions related to breeding; internal or external parasites; congenital or hereditary defects or illnesses. Still other common things like tooth extractions, surgery for an obstruction or exploratory surgery are covered. Cancers like lymphoma that do not involve the endocrine system are also covered. However, the

company representative advised me that all claims should still be submitted for the items that are excluded because some of the treatment or diagnostics may indeed be covered. Each claim is individually reviewed.

In spite of the fact that not everything is included the cost savings over paying each time for each and every procedure is dramatic, plus your fuzzy will be healthier because you will not hesitate to take them to the vet to have everything checked out if they aren't well.

What you spend yearly on pet insurance could easily be spent in one trip to the vet, especially if your fuzzy has had some kind of accident, like a broken canine or has developed an illness like inflammatory bowel disease. Your fuzzy is treated by your chosen veterinarian or specialist, who fills out the claim form and having paid your account to your veterinarian, you submit a claim, along with a receipt of your vet bill via fax or postal mail to the insurance company, who will reimburse you as per the benefit schedule.

I have pet insurance for all six of my ferrets and it has saved me hundreds of dollars in veterinary bills even considering the price of the premiums. ■

## The Expatriates' Journey

by Tressie Dutchyn

I acquired my first ferrets from the MaFF shelter in spring 2006 when I was living and working in Massachusetts. I had spent almost a year researching and learning everything I could about ferrets before making the decision to welcome this fascinating animal into my home.

I remember first seeing the two girls amongst the larger group Trudy had let out to play. They were two little chocolate sable females. Ignoring the menagerie of dogs, cats

and others of their kind, they romped happily through the toys. I was smitten immediately.

Dobie and Puffin, who I renamed Tortellini and Linguini, had found their forever home. When I had to return to Canada in November 2006, the girls made the long, fourteen-hour journey with me. No issues bringing them across the border at Houlton, ME since they were up to date on their vaccinations.

This past spring I returned for a

## The Fuzzy Papers

Deadlines for Submissions to  
Upcoming Issues of  
*The Fuzzy Papers*

**For the Summer 2008 Issue**  
May 10, 2008

**For the Fall 2008 Issue**  
August 10, 2008

**Submissions are accepted  
throughout the year!**

Snailmail your submissions to:  
MaFF / *The Fuzzy Papers*  
PO Box 283  
Marshfield, MA 02050  
Or e-mail to: Phyllis Spy at  
[publications@maferrets.org](mailto:publications@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 Phyllis Spy at [publications@maferrets.org](mailto:publications@maferrets.org)

Articles or letters can be neatly handwritten, or typed, submitted via e-mail, or on CD as Word documents or as plain ASCII text.

Photos can be digital images, 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 [publications@maferrets.org](mailto:publications@maferrets.org) for advice on sending image files via e-mail.

visit to Massachusetts knowing I wanted additions to my little family. I had been in contact with Trudy Wallach who had selected a young pair she felt would be a suitable match. Bess, a black roan mitted sprite and Porky, a very large chocolate sable gib were chosen for me. I renamed the male Cannoli, after that delectable cream-filled Italian confection and the little female, Tiramisu, a favourite Italian dessert.

Trudy kindly provided me with a cage to transport them in to where I was staying in Nahant. I had reserved a ticket on Delta but was told I had to travel another day because their policy allowed only one pet transport per flight and someone had already booked a ticket for their dog. I changed my reservation, at a cost, to travel the next day. The plane Delta used for the flight to Nova Scotia was the smallest in their fleet, which meant I had to get a kennel to meet their regulations: 17" long by 8" high.

The cage was tiny with little room for more than 2 ferrets and a small blanket. I could not use a water bottle because of security regulations so opted to give them water via dropper bottle. I scattered some food loosely in the kennel and gently placed my new babies into their squished environment. I made sure to be at Logan with ample time to get through customs clearance. What I had not anticipated was the



*Cannoli and Tiramisu: This is the kennel they travelled in on the plane.*

reception from the Delta passenger agent on check-in.

She took one look at my babies and declared, "You can't bring those on board!" Fortunately, I had a copy of the official letter from AFA indicating Delta's agreement allowing ferrets to travel in-cabin. She quickly read the letter and sniffed "They bite. They smell. Canada won't allow you to bring them in." I also had a copy of Canada's official position on ferrets, which I handed her. She read through it suspiciously and still not satisfied, told me she had to call a supervisor but not before she stated defiantly "I am not an animal person." I hugged the kennel to my chest while I waited for what I hoped to be a kinder person. Forty-five minutes later, the bristling supervisor arrived. She peered into the kennel, shuddered and stated emphatically "They look like rats!" Comrades in like-minded thinking, they joined ranks in finding a way to prevent me from bringing the rat-like, smelly creatures on to their pristine airplane. Tearfully I apologized to the little ones in the kennel at the ignorance of members of my species.

An hour later after much negotiating, calls to Canada Customs and so on, this pair of Delta's finest reluctantly agreed to allow me to take my babies on board. After this unpleasant encounter, I worried about how I would be greeted by U.S. Homeland Security and the security screening, which I still had to navigate.

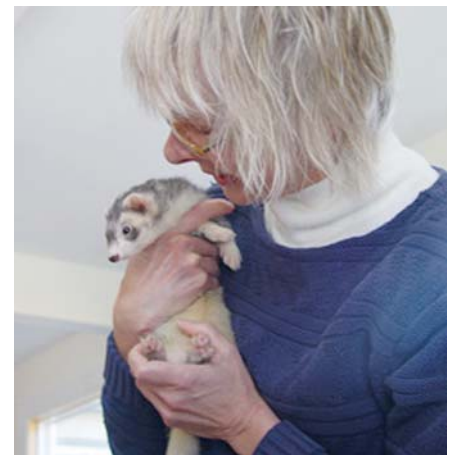
I was pleasantly relieved when the Customs agent smiled broadly at my ferrets, saying she wished she had one but had too many animals already. While waiting in the long security line-up, a little girl about nine years old squealed delightfully when she spied Cannoli watching her from the cage, "Mommy she has ferrets!" Her three younger siblings rushed over and cooed at my babies while Mom, an elegantly dressed woman, smiled warmly.

But the challenges were not over yet. Unbelievably, the security guard told me I had to remove the ferrets from the cage so he could examine them! I had visions of losing the pair as they hightailed it through the terminal, having had enough of humans by then. I patiently explained why that would not be possible. He hummed, hawed, and told me he would have to call a supervisor. My heart sank as I groaned internally, determined to do battle if necessary.

The strikingly tall, senior official ambled over and without a word gently picked up the kennel and graciously motioned for me to follow him. We quickly walked through security. With a smile and wink, he handed over my precious cargo.

On board I wrapped the kennel in my coat and squeezed it under the seat, noting the loud barking of the dog on board. As soon as we were in the air, I put the kennel on the seat next to me, sighed happily, and gave water to my newest family members.

The expatriates were on their way to their Forever Home in Canada. ■



*Tiramisu sits still: On the day they arrived in their new forever home.*

## 12 Steps to Teaching Massage

*From a Web Posting by Kim Hillegas of [www.vanityferret.com](http://www.vanityferret.com)*

**O**NE of my new adoptees is (WAS) a confirmed vicious biter. Her biting got her shifted around from home to home - think I am her 5th or 6th home.

If I break it down, these are the steps I've used:

- 1.** Allow her to release all pent up energy (I offer free roam 24/7, lots of tunnels and several dig boxes).
- 2.** Get her to relax with a human in the room. If the ferret scoots off every time you stand up or initiates play and war dances when you walk by - they are NOT relaxed. A ferret that follows you from room to room, curious as to where you are going IS relaxed.
- 3.** Pick her up and set her down a million times a day. Just gently scoop up, give a quick cuddle - gently squeeze her to your chest or the crook of your neck, then set her down again. It's your idea to pick her up and your idea to let her down.
- 4.** Ever so slowly increase the length of time she is in your arms.
- 5.** Once scooped up, hold for a moment, then walk to another room and set her down. Wait till she unwinds again to repeat a million times again. Do this until you can walk her from room to room without her squirming.
- 6.** Now do the same thing only pick her up and sit on the sofa with you, set her down, let her go - she'll come back soon. Repeat a million times.

What you have done at this point is acclimated her to the feeling of your hands on her body, gentle pressure of your hands and made her realize it isn't going to be forever and hey - she just might get to do something new!

- 7.** Make a nest for her near the sofa or your easy chair. Encourage her to nap in it. OR situate her cage near your sofa. So that when she snoozes you can eventually stroke her. Expect

her to wake with a start - hopefully she won't bite (am assuming your ferret isn't deaf) - just leave your hand near her the first several times. Then lay it against her, then on her, and then begin stroking her.

- 8.** Once you get to the level of stroking her while she snoozes and she continues to snooze, then begin rubbing her. I started with rubs on the neck and shoulders. Intersperse some scratches. Then move up and rub the jaws. Rubbing the jaws will often get a yawn response.

- 9.** When you can rub her in her nest - move the nest to your lap and repeat, repeat, repeat.

- 10.** By now you should be able to pretty much rub her all over, stroke her all over and as you rub, gently stretch the limbs and her tail.

- 11.** Stretching the legs often makes them yawn and do an all over body stretch.

- 12.** By this time you've spent umpteen hours in short minute by minute sessions and she has progressed to being a ferret that you can hold for at least five to ten minutes and shows real enjoyment while being rubbed. Continuing in this fashion and just extending each session a half a minute at a time will eventually yield a ferret that comes to you and begs for a massage!

I can encourage Fizzle to relax also by holding her with both hands, butt and back resting in my lap. My fingers supporting her shoulders and head; my thumbs coming up under her elbows and laying along side her cheeks. Then using gentle firm pressure with my thumbs I stroke her jaws and rub her ears. Usually she'll yawn and begin to melt. Sometimes she THINKS she has to go someplace else, but if I continue she'll go - "Oh heck - I'll check it out later - this feels nice!"

Gross as it may sound to some people, I can "up the ante" a bit and really connect with her by wetting my thumbs and "washing" her face. Often this starts her to washing her own face and further melting into my hands.

Once her face is well rubbed, I move to her neck, then her shoulders. Down her tiny forearms and then her paws, then each individual toe. Her paws are now like limp noodles and only now will I stretch her arms - being certain to keep them in line with normal joint movement. Gentle circles to keep rotational movement loose and then I go back to her shoulders.

Down her long strong back muscles and gently across her rib cage. Up and down her chest and soft circles around her belly.

Then on to her hips. By now she is pretty much in a stupor and her hind limbs are sprawled out, her forepaws hanging over her chest, head resting back on my lap, eyes merely glazed over slits, breathing deep and regular.

I spend a lot of time on her hips and thighs because after all - that's her engine! Really kneading those chubby muscles, feeling for any knots and working them loose. Extending and folding each joint - hip, thigh, hock, shins, feet and toes. When each hind leg is done I then move on to her tail. Round and round each tiny vertebrae. Bend and roll, bend and roll. You'll notice the tail curls downward and inward very easily - but upward and towards their back the tail is fairly stiff - they use that tail sometimes as a "fifth" foot when standing tall. When each bone has been done in her tail I start gently stroking, then increasing the pressure a bit to gently pull the tail straight out from her body - keeping it in line with the spine.

You'd be surprised how many teeny "knots" you'll find in their muscles! Muscle tissues should feel like a hard boiled egg (peeled of course) any softer and the muscles are out of tone. Any harder and the muscles are full of lactic acid and need massage. AS much as possible I try to massage in a circular motion towards their heart so the circulation system can get rid of the lactic acid ASAP.

Make certain the ferret has plenty of water available after a massage. I prefer a drinking fountain or bowl because they can drink a lot

more that way and the water doesn't have a metallic taste either.

If you are quietly, gently persistent with your ferret - you will soon have her like putty in your hands and can initiate a blissful, relaxed state just by starting a rub along her cheeks or shoulders.

Crystal and Bussy are still in the learning how to relax when being held stage, but Faylene, Fozzy, Windy & Fizzle have it all figured out now and totally enjoy their massages!

This massage has gone a L-O-N-G way to stopping Fizzle from wanting to bite. Now she will even

GENTLY wrestle with my hands during play and a recent visit to the vets I felt confident handing her off to several folks, that she wouldn't just lunge and chomp them - which she USED to do with her previous people and did twice to me.

While the vet was examining Fozzy - I massaged Fizzle on the table and she dozed off! Yep in a strange place full of strange sounds and strange smells!

Hope this helps! Cheers!  
[Editor: This information can be particularly useful for ferrets who are severe biters.] ■

### Shiloh's Song

*by an Angel SJ*

I saw angels. Lost in a place of strange smells, scary sounds and paw biting cold, all I wanted was a place to curl up, tuck my nose in my tail and—there. A cold place, one that smelled of death, with ancient stones that towered above me. Drifting in between the stones were the angels, misty gray and almost invisible.

"Sleep," they sang to me, showing me a dry patch of leaves scratched out of the snow. "Sleep and dream with us," came the icy lullaby of their invitation. I tried to burrow into the leaves but it was too much effort. I lay my head down and followed the song of the angels and let it lead me away from the cold pain of my body.

I dreamed of a bridge. The sun shone down on the bridge and I just knew if I could make it there, I could lay my body on the rainbow colored planks and soak up the heat, never to be cold again. On the far side, there were more angels, singing to me of woolen blankets and rubber toys, of endless bowls of warm duck soup and of friends waiting for endless playtime. I moved forward, but a cold, wet nose and a snuff of air

ruffled my fur. It smelled like dog breath! I took another step, closer to the bridge and again came the nudge, harder this time.

Indignation! I turned away from the bridge only long enough to bite the nose of the offender and teach the dog that we ferrets are not to be messed with. Once again I felt the terrible, painful cold but the song of the cold angels was drowned out by the voices of humans as they pushed the smelly, unmannered hairball away and picked me up. They bent over me, making quiet sounds of sympathy as they scooped me up. I think I kind of scared them when I moved, opening my eyes. Imagine, me, scaring these big ole humans! As they wrapped me in blankets and the warmth of unexpected tenderness, in their voices I heard once more the song of angels tempting me to stay

in this world just a little bit longer. May you, my human guardian angels, always have endless toys and a belly full of soup.

[Editor's Note: Shiloh was found in a cemetery on January 20, when the temperature dropped to 5 degrees. A couple was out walking their dog, which discovered a ferret lying in front of a cemetery marker. The dog started to go after the ferret, so the couple walked the dog home and came back to find the ferret in the same place where they had last seen it. They picked him up and contacted an area shelter, who in turn contacted MaFF. He was given warm sub-Q fluids twice to warm him up. He is currently basking in the love and care of our Shelter Director and doing very well.] ■

### What Do Black-Footed Ferrets Do in the Winter?

*from Prairie Wildlife Research*

**W**HILE their fur is not as lustrous and thick as their cousin the mink, blackfooted ferrets fare well during cold winters on the prairie. In fact, they are just as active in winter as in other seasons

and do not hibernate. Prairie dogs, on the other hand, hunker down during snowstorms, thick cloud cover, high winds and other wintry weather, staying below ground for several days or even weeks at a time, sometimes

entering into a state close to hibernation.

Black-footed ferrets are largely unaffected by such conditions and continue to hunt at night, leaving unique footprints and bounding patterns in snow as they traverse across prairie dog colonies. During the winter, male black-footed ferrets begin to establish and defend territories, preparing for the breeding season which begins in mid-March and lasts through April. They mark small shrubs and vegetation with scent glands by rubbing their bodies on them, claiming an area as taken.

New Adoptees for a New Year . . . Homer and Sirius are now available for adoption and join Harlem and Clover as ambassadors for black-footed ferret recovery.

Harry spent time "preconditioning" at the National Black-Footed Ferret Conservation Center (NBFFCC) in Colorado where he enjoyed living in actual prairie dog burrows before being released in Wyoming.

Legolas was retired from the adoption program at the end of 2007 and will remain at the NBFFCC.

Clover spent time preconditioning with her five kits who were later released into the wild. Clover remains in the black-footed ferret SSP (species survival plan) at the NBFFCC.

Harlem proved to be a successful mom and all five of her kits were released into the wild. ■

### Adopt a Black-Footed Ferret

and be a part of black-footed ferret recovery efforts.

Visit [www.prairiewildlife.org](http://www.prairiewildlife.org) to find out more

Prairie Wildlife Research  
Black-Footed Ferret Adoption Program  
PO Box 308, Wellington, CO 80549  
970.897.2273 [www.prairiewildlife.org](http://www.prairiewildlife.org)  
(Please make your donation checks payable to Prairie Wildlife Research or adopt online using a credit card.)

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## Chester's Mailbox

**H**l, it's me . . . Chester!

I am having a great year with MaFF. They are the bestest people for all us ferrets. I like to call them our unconditional loving earth angels. Without MaFF there would be no forever homes for us. MaFF is my contact source to other ferrets like you. So, please! Don't be shy, get on

the computa, write, call, phone anything to share. Sharing is healthy. Before MaFF, I was alone. 'Course I got mom 'n' dad, but they ain't ferret. I need ferret to survive. Maybe we can start a Ferret Union! Dook! Dook! Dook!

There is lots of stuff coming up this year. Like, Ferret Day. Feb 2nd, so look under them hammies and see if you got a shadow under there. Don't forget the Hunt Day for eggs, this is coming too. What came first: the hammie or the egg?

Lots of special events with MaFF too! I sent my mom 'n' dad to a MaFF Educational Day last year, and they came home smarter than when they went down. I hafta send them some more times, 'cause they got lots to learn about ferrets.

Let's not forget the shelters and our foster homes! Operated all by our unconditional loving earth angels. Thank you, forever!

From my hammie to yours! (if you don't got a hammie, you can share mine)

—Luv, Chester

[Editor's Note: Chester is a ferret who has mastered typing on the computer. He has a wonderful mom and dad who have managed to spoil him as only a ferret can be spoiled. Chester's Mailbox will be a regular feature in *The Fuzzy Papers*, and I would like to invite ferrets to write Chester with your questions, thoughts or "fuzzy" ideas. You can send your letters for Chester to me ([Phyllis@maferrets.org](mailto:Phyllis@maferrets.org)) and I will forward them to Chester. His responses will appear in the next issue of *The Fuzzy Papers*. This is an opportunity for all you fuzzies out there to speak to us humans through Chester.]



## Miracle at MaFF

***Two ferrets able to communicate to humans via written medium***

Chester will have a regular featured column in *The Fuzzy Papers* and can be found occasionally contributing his thoughts to the MaFF forum. Hannah, a resident of the MaFF shelter, as Official Spokesferret for all the little ones at the shelter, will be giving updates on the fuzzies available to forever loving homes. Her regular feature on the forum "Shelter News" can be found online at:

[www.maferrets.org/forums/index.php?board=6](http://www.maferrets.org/forums/index.php?board=6)

Both ferrets deny any human involvement for their wondrous abilities.

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

*If you're not already a contributor to MaFF, or if you'd like to renew your membership, you can do so by filling out this coupon and sending it in, or by sending an e-mail to [info@maferrets.org](mailto:info@maferrets.org), or by visiting our web site at <http://maferrets.org>, or by calling us at 781 224 1098 and asking for a contribution form.*

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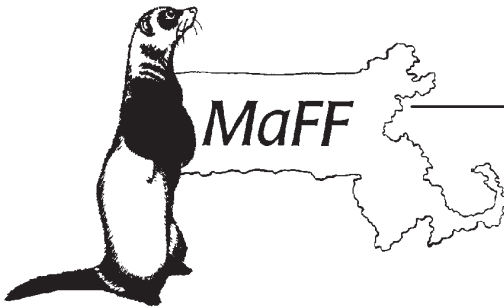
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