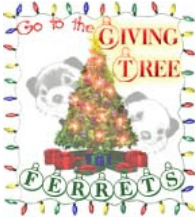




Rocky's Ferret Rescue & Shelter

832 C Falls Road, Parkton, Maryland 21120, (410) 329-6111

NOVEMBER, 2009 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Don't forget to pick your ferrets from the Ferret Giving Tree. These babies need love for Christmas. Go to www.ferretgivingtree.com.



SWEET, SPUNKY SURVIVOR - MEET TINKERBELLE

Our county's shelters usually do a good job housing and adopting ferrets. When they're unsuccessful, or have a special needs ferret, I get a call.

That's how a little 5 yr. old sable girl named Tinkerbelle came to live at Rocky's. There's something special about each surrendered ferret, but this old lady's sadness and confusion were obvious.

The crisis happened four days after she arrived. Of course, it was a Sunday afternoon, when no ferret specialist was available. I approached her condition as an insulinomic seizure, giving full supportive care. She didn't rally, and we reluctantly decided to take her to the ER for mercy.

After preparing for the trip, I went back and found Tinkerbelle trying to right herself. She was conscious, yet it was clear there was neurological damage. She'd had a stroke!

Later we found that she had also suffered an adrenal cyst rupture, because there was a quick loss of fur followed by regrowth in the same week.

She had the spark, the will to live, so the vet trip was postponed. She receives ongoing bloodwork and supportive care.

Now blind and deaf, Tinkerbelle captures the heart of all who meet her. This adorable little bobblehead lady loves to wiggle through the grass outdoors. Recently, she even ventured into a play tube. It's heart-wrenching when she falls, flopping so hard to right herself and continue her explorations. But no pity needed - she's loving life! She's a survivor, and her struggles are an inspiration to all. She's precious, and a very spunky little old lady!

(Article by Barb Clay, Shelter Director)



Ferret Friendly Feeding Tips

By ZuPreem Staff

Here are some tips to help you adjust to your ferret's special and sometimes unusual eating habits.

Nuggets, nuggets everywhere

If you are an experienced ferret owner, you expect to find your ferret's food stashed away in the strangest places. Often our fuzzy friends carry any excess food to their dens or hide it in the cushions of a favorite chair. Many a ferret owner wakes up in the middle of the night to crunching sounds—just a ferret having a little midnight snack.

Open 24 hours a day

Dry food should be available to your ferret at all times, night or day. Be sure to leave your ferret's cage door open even while he's out playing. He may need access to his food and water. Because they have such a short intestinal tract, ferrets can't eat very much at one time and tend to eat many small meals a day, sometimes up to 10 meals. Moist food spoils after a few hours, especially in warm weather, so a dry [diet](#) is a better choice for most healthy ferrets.

Just digging around

Ferrets are curious creatures and like to dig their food out of the container to see what's at the bottom, especially if the container is filled to the brim. Generally, adult female ferrets require only about a quarter of a cup of food a day, so there is no need to fill the container full. Check the feeding amounts on the diet you are feeding for exact quantities. Frustrated ferret owners can solve this messy problem by using a deep crockery bowl or plastic or nylon dishes clipped high enough on the side of the cage to prevent the ferret from "digging in."

Observe carefully

If you have a multiple ferret household, you will need to observe each of your ferrets frequently to determine who's eating what. Make sure the food is being eaten and not just tossed around or stashed some place. A cage shared by two or more ferrets may need more than one food bowl. If you suspect that one of your ferrets is not eating, it may be best to temporarily move the ferret to a cage by himself for closer observation, as well as seeking advice from your veterinarian.

Fresh water at all times

Ferrets must have access to water at all times, even when they are playing outside their cages. They need about three times as much water volume per day as the amount of dry food eaten. Ferrets that don't get enough water won't eat. In warm weather, check your ferret's water container several times a day, and make sure to completely change the water and wash the bowls with soap and water at least once a day.

What's the best water container?

Although water bottles are a convenient way to keep your ferret's water supply clean, most

ferrets will drink more and seem to prefer drinking from a bowl or dish. Again, clip the bowl or dish to the side of the cage so it won't rest on the floor of the cage where it can get tipped over, played in or become contaminated with food or litter. Experiment until you find the best system for you and your ferret.

Your ferret deserves fresh food

Proper food storage is important to the health of your ferret. ZuPreem® Premium Ferret Diet is packaged so the nuggets are protected from moisture. After opening, make sure to seal the bag securely, or place the contents of an opened bag of food in a plastic bin with a snug lid. Never store opened food in a basement or garage where it may get damp or moldy or become infested with pests. Mold will make the food taste bad and may produce toxins that can make your ferret very sick.



(The information and views expressed in this article is not necessarily endorsed by Rocky's Ferret Rescue and Shelter and/or ZuPreem but are meant to stimulate discussion and provide education for our readers. Ferret owners should not rely on this information to diagnose or treat their ferrets and should seek advice from qualified medical professional.)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 2009

2009 Winter Nationals Ferret Competition

American Ferret Association

December 4 & 5, 2009

Horticulture Hall, York Fairgrounds, York, PA

Contact: 1-888-FERRET-1 or afa@ferret.org

**ROCKY'S WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE TIME TO THANK THE FOLLOWING
SUPPORTERS AND SPONSORS THAT HAVE HELP THE SHELTER IN 2009.**

Marty Magic (www.martymagic.com)
Drs. Foster & Smith
The Ferret Depot
Laurie Clarke at www.wholoveskitty.ca
Marie-Agnès (<http://yukkabelle.deviantart.com>)
Jasmine Becket-Griffith
(<http://www.strangeling.com>)
Linda van Zuilekom at SlippyPad LLC
Rose German @ LFFR BEDDING
(www.littlefeetferretbedding.org/)
Fran Brown "Ferrets Are Love"
<http://www.ferretsarelove.com/>
Dara and Bob DiBenedetto at Casey's Hidden
Pantry (www.caseyshiddenpantry.com)
Crafty Weasels - A lovely group of Georgia
women that love to sew for shelters!
Martin's Cages (www.martinscages.com)
Kaytee Products, Inc.
David Coyle at Digital Office Systems
Shrewsbury WalMart
Shrewsbury Giant Food Store
The Baltimore Ravens
Brooks Huff Tire & Auto Centers
Rolf C. Hagen (USA) Corp.

Planet Urine <http://www.planeturine.com/>
Lynne Toole and thehideyhole.com
Marshall Farms
Kyril's Caverns
Nupro <http://www.nuprostore.com/>
Dook Nook
Jen Johnson
Deva Kolb
Amy Spicer
Diane Jenson
Pittsburg Steelers
Twisted Willow Wood Designers
Katrina Sword
Kat Parsons
Carrie Vavra
Performance Foods/Totally Ferret
<http://www.totallyferret.com/>
Christi Boegner and Signs by Tomorrow
Claudia Johnson and The Oxford Ferret Rescue
SOS (Support Our Shelters)
Triple F Farms
Linda and Tom Piasecki
Kong Company
ZuPreem

** If you would like to submit an article to be posted in one of the upcoming newsletters, please email your article to rockysferrets@gmail.com to have it reviewed. We will notify you if your article is chosen. Thank you.**