

Ferrets



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Housing

Your ferret should be kept indoors with you! It is important that they have an escape-proof enclosure to stay in when you cannot supervise them. Ferrets do love to explore, but make sure that you have a "ferret-proofed" area that is free of wires, loose objects, and other items that might get chewed on. Your ferret should have bedding in their enclosure and a litter box for them to do their business! Decor is also important! Ferrets love to have fun running through tubes and tunnels, having places to hide, and even sleeping in hammocks. Your ferret's enclosure should be cleaned daily to remove soiled bedding, and deep-cleaned once a week or more as needed.



Behavior

Ferrets are super affectionate and goofy pets who love to play and explore! They are naturally curious and known for their humorous behaviors. They even love to collect items and make noises or dance around in a way! When your ferret is young, they might show nipping behavior to get attention, but they typically outgrow this behavior as they grow older. Don't let your ferret run around unsupervised as they love to chew and dig and shouldn't be allowed to do so with things that might be dangerous.



Handling

Your ferret will let you know when it wants to be picked up/handled! Always use two hands to pick up your ferret and make sure they are supported. Never pick up a ferret by their tail as this may injure them or cause them to become nervous and nip at you. Most ferrets are very social and like to be around their people, so your ferret might enjoy hanging out on your shoulder or in a bag or pouch! They can even walk on a leash and harness to go on adventures!



Overview

Ferrets belong to the weasel family, and their name is derived from the Latin word *furittus*, meaning "little thief", which likely refers to their common habit of gathering small items!

Ferrets average domestic lifespan is about **8 years** and they grow to be about 15 inches long. Ferrets need *at least a 24" L x 24" W x 36" H* enclosure with multiple levels and are great pets for families with time to socialize and space for them to explore! They can live with other pets like dogs and cats, but they shouldn't be left together unsupervised.

Ferrets are **obligate carnivores**, meaning all of their food must be derived from meat. There is ferret-specific food available in pet stores that contains all of the nutrients they need to stay happy and healthy! Your ferret should also have access to clean, fresh water at all times.

Information from [petco.com](https://www.petco.com)