

Ferrets 101: A Detailed Guide

by: [@the_ferret_family_business](#)

This is all the information I wish I had when I adopted my first ferret. It's going to be long but I'll try to get everything. Everything in life is forever evolving, especially pet care! It's essential to understand that we will never stop learning new things and better ways to care for our furry friends!

Looking to adopt a ferret? Check out this [Breeder List](#), [Ferret Shelter Map](#), [AdoptAPet](#), [Ferret Shelter Directory](#), [Craigslist](#) or [Facebook](#).

Basic Ferret Starter Info

On average, ferrets sleep 18 hours a day and need at the LEAST 6-8 hours of playtime/free roam daily. Ferrets are crepuscular, meaning they will normally be most active during dawn and dusk, although they can adapt to your specific schedule. Ferrets are very social creatures so it's recommended to get two so they have a friend for when you're not there. If that's not possible, definitely have a LOT of playtime and just overall being with your new ferret. Make sure you ferret proof any areas they will be allowed to play and explore because they will get into EVERYTHING. Keep in mind that ferrets can live to be 7-10 or even older, so absolutely think about your life plans and whether or not ferrets will fit in. Ferrets are not rodents, but actually mustelids.

Also, never allow ferrets to play with rodents, they will KILL rodents and other small animals. It's far too stressful for the rodent, so it's best to not get a ferret while you still have them. If you're set on it, they need separate rooms/areas, and you would need to wash your hands very well before handling your rodent if you were handling your ferret. Truthfully though, your rodent or small animal will still smell the ferret and likely become stressed, scared or agitated.

1. Diet- Ferrets are obligate carnivores and need a very high meat-based diet. A raw diet is the absolute best for ferrets. The Holistic Ferret Forum has tons of info on raw feeding and ferrets in general [here](#). I would also recommend joining the [Holistic Ferrets](#) Facebook Group also, there's so much great information. I've found [this website](#) to be very helpful and informative. Friendly Neighborhood Ferrets also has a [video](#) on raw feeding, as well as awesome ferret care content. Another great account is [ThePrimalPack](#), they feed all of their animals a natural diet! All six of my ferrets are on a raw diet and I would definitely recommend raw as it's their

natural diet. Here is my ferret's own personal [meal plan](#), this is a good outline but remember that every ferret and business are different. Next best would be freeze-dried/air-dried raw, in which the best I've found is ZiwiPeak, specifically their [Venison](#) and [Lamb&Mackerel](#) formulas. The best kibble food I've found is [Dr. Elsey's cleanprotein Chicken Formula](#). According to me and many others, that's the best kibble option for ferrets on the market. Whatever food they were on prior to you owning them, you should mix it with whatever new food you get to help their stomachs acclimate and not cause any pains, aches or vomiting. You could also get treats, I recommend these, [PureBites](#) or [Orijen Regional Red Cat Treats](#). Make sure to look for treats where the only ingredients are meat, or meat and mixed tophericals (preservatives). I actually make my own treats, following this [tutorial](#). Usually, any meat freeze dried treats is a hit with the ferrets as well as raw eggs and salmon oil. Raw eggs should have the whites and yolks whisked together, and they should only have about one egg per ferret per week. For [salmon oil](#), make sure the only ingredients are either only salmon oil or salmon oil and mixed tophericals (preservatives). Try and find one in an opaque/non-transparent container with no pump, to protect it from the light and air so it doesn't go rancid too fast. Also, it's best to keep it refrigerated. Keep in mind that ferrets should only have about a teaspoon per week.

2. **Cage/Accessories-** As for a cage, I have the [Ferret Nation Cage](#), which in many ferret owner's opinions is the best. It's a bit expensive but will last very long. Make sure you get blankets or cage liners since walking on the wire ramps will hurt their feet. Not to mention, the cage looks so much comfier with all the fleece covers! I recommend going on Etsy and finding cage liners there(I used [FerretZone](#)) or you could buy some fleece blankets/yards and fold them under. You could look into local ferret shelters, Craigslist or Facebook Marketplace and see if anyone is selling this cage for a discount(that's how I got mine). The cage also has doors that open on all levels and ramps that make cleaning a lot easier(AND YOU CAN GET A SCATTER GUARD THAT WILL BLOCK FLYING POOP!). You can either buy a scatter guard online [here](#) or make your own (just get coroplast from your local hardware store, measure it out to about 6"-8" high, drill holes and zip tie it to the inside of the cage). Your cage should typically be set up with food and water on the top level and litter boxes/puppy pads/newspaper on the bottom level. Accessories are a **must** for their cage so they have something to keep them occupied while you're away. Hammocks, blankets, and hanging tunnels are amazing for them to sleep and lounge in. They should have a food and water dish (water bottles will chip their teeth and they can't get enough water) available at all times. I use the [Midwest Snappy Fit bowls](#) so they can latch on the top level and can't be flipped.

3. **Hygiene-** Honestly, ferrets never need baths. Even just in a water bath, their skin will get really, really dry and they will produce more oils, hence more stink and itchiness. If your ferret gets into something and absolutely needs a bath, here's the best way I've found. Now let me say that practically all ferret shampoos are really bad for ferrets' skin and often recommend bathing way too often. I would just give a water bath or you could put oatmeal in an old sock, tie the top and let it soak in the tub while you fill it and let your ferret wander around in it and get wet. It cleans them while also being very gentle on their skin. The best would be to only spot clean them with a wet washcloth and wipe them down when they are especially dirty. Ferrets also need their teeth cleaned approximately 4-5 times a week, everyday is best, if they are fed kibble or raw grinds. This [article](#) walks you through it very well. Another thing they need done is ear cleaning about once a month, especially if a lone ferret as when they are in a group they will clean each other's ears. This [video](#) describes it perfectly. Washing their bedding (blankets, hammocks, etc) at **least** once every 10 days will also help keep them clean and less smelly. Make sure to use a gentle and unscented detergent (you can use some vinegar or baking soda to get rid of odor). Cleaning the cage should also be done every 10 days, usually done at the same time as washing the bedding. As for what to clean the cage with, you need to be careful. Bleach isn't really healthy for any pet to breathe in and because ferrets have an incredibly sensitive respiratory system, a lot of cleaners cause issues. So I would recommend vinegar and warm water, then mix them fifty/fifty. Put the solution into a clean spray bottle and you have a new ferret cleaner. I also make my own baby wipes for any poop accidents using this method. All you do is cut up some old washcloths into fours and add half warm water and half vinegar into a container and let the washcloths soak in it. Then just take one out when you need it. I wipe down and clean their cage approximately once a week with this stuff and it's perfect.

4. **Toys-** My ferrets LOVE tunnels, especially [MotorCityFerrets](#) tunnels on Etsy and [these tunnels](#) from Chewy. You could even go to your local hardware store and find some dryer vents/hoses or plastic drainage pipes big enough (4" diameter is the smallest) for your ferret and they will love it. They play with any cat (or small dog) toys like the jingle balls and crinkle toys. I try to stay away from toys with stuffing and cheap fabric that they could easily bite into. There's not a lot of research on the effect of catnip in ferrets, so it's best to just avoid it if possible. I also have a ball pit (just get a plastic tote or cardboard box and fill it with ping pong balls from Amazon). A dig box is amazing and helps them use their natural instincts, I use a [kiddie pool](#) filled with [rice](#). Make sure it's long grain and non-instant. If

they're anything like my 6, they'll go insane. Some easy cheap toy ideas are: a cardboard box with holes in it, an empty plastic water bottle, socks, pieces of fabric (I used fleece) braided or knotted together, shaking a towel, and just running all around with them. As long as they can't and don't eat any of it, most toys are fine. A good tip is that if you notice anything that can be chewed off and swallowed, cut it off of the toy before giving it to your ferrets. I inspect their toys every night and get rid of any that look like it could be a hazard for their digestive systems.

5. Litter- AVOID CLAY CAT LITTER! When wet, the clay becomes cement-like and will stick to paws, face, and butts. Not only that, but clay litter is way too dusty and will hurt their delicate respiratory systems. I used to use litter boxes for my ferrets. They used to have [one big litter box](#) in their cage with [Yesterday's News Paper Pellets](#). I highly recommend this litter for ferrets, it has practically no dust so it won't hurt their respiratory systems, keeps the odor to a minimum and is made from recycled paper. I had the litter box on one whole side in the bottom of their Double Ferret Nation cage and put newspaper underneath it. Later on, I then made the entire bottom pan a litter box. I got a [stainless steel 2.5" pan](#) from Bass Equipment. This pan is specifically for a Ferret Nation cage so check the measurements and only get one if you are sure it will fit your cage. Now though, since they have their own bedroom, there's a dedicated potty corner lined with newspaper/[reusable puppy pads](#). When trying to find a specific corner, I first put newspaper in every corner they would have access to, then slowly only put it in the corners that they preferred to use the bathroom. This makes for easy clean up and will train them to only poop in those corners. As for cleaning the litter box, since I have six ferrets I cleaned everything 3-4 times a week. If you only have one or two, you can get away with cleaning it once a week. You should definitely scoop the litter box *daily*, as ferrets will stop using the litter box if it's not clean. Trying to litter train them will be tedious and there will always be accidents but mine now poop where they are supposed to and rarely miss.

6. Vet- Vets are tricky because you need to kind of ask around at local offices and see if they have an exotic veterinarian, ideally one that specializes in ferrets explicitly. It's all a *play-by-ear* kind of basis and Google can help a bit, but ultimately you'll have to simply call around and ask. These links might help->>[Vet Directory](#), [Directory of Veterinarians for Exotic Small Mammals](#). There is this AWESOME [Ferret Vet Map](#)! If you have a ferret friendly vet and don't see them listed there, please use the [link](#) to enter them. Once you find one, you can have your ferret(s) get vaccinations, which is usually just Distemper and Rabies. Double check with your vet about vaccines because it can change with your location/state laws and

specific ferret immunity. Keep in mind that ferrets are very high risk when it comes to allergic reactions and should never be given two vaccinations at the same time. Choosing to vaccinate is a very personal decision between you and your vet. Besides that, ferrets don't need to go to the vet very often except for checkups and if you notice any weird/abnormal behavior or emergencies. Also, if you have any questions, the vet should be able to give you a straight answer. Some common diseases in ferrets are described in this [article](#). If these diseases come into play, vet bills will get expensive. I would look into [CareCredit](#) and whether or not your vet office takes it as it's a great help for ferret sickness bills.

Why to Not Buy Any Marshall Farms Products or Pet Store Ferrets

Marshall ferrets are prone to disease due to their horrible upbringing. They are separated from their family too early and spayed/neutered too early which often leads to adrenal disease. It's unlikely that you will find a non Marshall's ferret, if in the US, unless from a private breeder. Marshall Farms dominates the ferret industry, but if you buy a pet store ferret you're buying into it. You're directly supporting them if you know the truth. I myself have bought a pet store ferret before I knew about any of this. All the rest of mine are rescues, still Marshall's but not supporting them in any way. Please just wait until you can find one at a shelter, here's a [Ferret Shelter Map](#) that may help.

I had all of my ferrets on Marshall's kibble at one point before I realized how bad the ingredients were for them. Once you switch, the difference is monumental. Their coats look better, they gain healthy weight and they smell better (especially their poop). I personally switched to [Dr. Elsey's cleanprotein Chicken Formula](#) (now they are finally raw fed!), which is currently the best kibble for ferrets I've seen. Raw food is the best option (with freeze-dried raw in second), but not always plausible for everyone. You can just see how much happier my ferrets are now. If you do switch (which I highly recommend), make sure to gradually mix in the new kibble and get rid of the other over the course of about a week, maybe a little longer. Ferrets have very sensitive stomachs so you have to take it slow so as to not upset their tummies.

Common Products to AVOID: *These have been known to harm and even kill ferrets!*

1. Marshall Ferret Premium Diet

2. Marshall Furro-Vite
*Not Marshall's but also avoid 8 in 1 FerretVite
3. Marshall Ferret Lax
4. Marshall Ferret Octo-Play
5. Marshall Ferret Hide-N-Seek Alligator
6. Marshall Pet Turtle Tunnel

How to Spread Awareness about Marshall Farms:

1. Refrain from buying any Marshall Farms Products, so as to not support their abusive ferret mills.
2. Comment and message their media team and Instagram @marshallpet
3. Go follow [@ferret_freedom_fighters](#)
4. Head to [this website](#) and get in touch with local companies to get rid of Marshall Farms altogether!

Litter Box Training

For potty training I did a couple of things:

1. I would first say make sure you aren't using those corner litter boxes. Ferrets generally don't like using them because they can't get all four paws in them.
2. Move any accidents into the litter box. The smell will entice them to go there. Also, after changing the litter, put two or so old poops from the old litter in the new litter. This again, will remind them to use the bathroom here when they smell it.
3. Spray any accident prone spots with a mixture of water and vinegar. Ferrets don't like this smell and will eventually avoid those spots when looking to go potty. On top of this, vinegar is a great nature cleaner that will kill bacteria.
4. When you see them looking for a spot to poop, pick them up and put them in the litter box. Keep doing this (and it will likely take awhile) and they should learn to go there. Whenever they do go in the litter box, give them a little treat or a bunch of attention. They will learn that if they keep going there, you'll be happy and reward them.

5. You could put the food and water in the accident prone areas and also try putting their favorite blankets or sleeping items there. That should help diminish the potty breaks in those spots outside the cage.

Those are practically all of the tricks I used to potty train all six of my ferrets. Unfortunately, ferrets are sometimes just jerks so it's going to take a lot of time, but remember that there will always be accidents because ferrets have such a short digestive tract. They'll never be litter trained to the extent of, say a cat. But for the most part mine will run to their litter boxes/newspaper when looking for a bathroom.

Tips for Bite Training

Please pay a lot of your attention to your ferret when they bite. They could be trying to tell you something. Maybe they're really scared or hurt, or maybe they're just playing. Once you're sure that your ferret is alright and biting as a form of playing, you can start training. ***I would suggest staying away from Bitter Apple Spray, as it doesn't have good ingredients and seems to harm their taste buds.***

1. Positive reinforcement is the best way in my opinion.
2. Please refrain from scruffing while bite training. It will be puzzling for ferrets when you use scruffing for discipline then try to use it when giving medicine, clipping nails, brushing teeth or vet visits. You don't want them to think they did something wrong when they didn't.
3. When your ferret bites you, ignore them and walk away. Don't say anything and just leave for a couple of minutes (2-3). This will teach them that if they bite you, then playtime is over.
4. Another thing to do is redirect them. When they bite or you see signs that they will, place a toy between you and your ferret. Give them the toy and play with them using that. Try to refrain from playing with your hands and use toys instead. This will teach them to only bite and play rough with toys, not you.
5. You could also try using timeouts. Get a separate carrier from the ones used to go to the vet. Use that carrier only as the timeout spot, what some people call the "Sin Bin". When they bite, immediately pick them up (not by the scruff) and put them in said carrier. Leave them in there for 2-3 minutes

while ignoring them. After those minutes, open it and allow them to walk out themselves. If they come over to you, then pet them and give them some attention.

With bite training, consistency is key. Younger ferrets tend to grow out of it a bit but training definitely helps. The more time and effort you put in, the quicker your ferret will stop biting.

Introducing Ferrets

The best way I've seen to make sure they don't get too aggressive is to just go nice and slow with introductions; this [article](#) shows it nicely.

Friendly Neighborhood Ferrets has a [playlist](#) explaining how to introduce new ferrets, I highly recommend watching!

Here's some extra tips for how to do that (after a 2 week quarantine):

1. Give both a short bath, separately, with some plain oatmeal in an old sock (ferret shampoo is terrible for their skin). This will cause them to smell similar, so they will be less likely to become agitated.
2. Switch their bedding and let them sniff around and snuggle in it for a week or so. Once they are ready to be put together, wash all bedding and clean the cage to eliminate all smells.
3. Put salmon oil on their scruffs as it's much better than Ferretone, which has soybean oil and carcinogens, such as BHT and propyl paraben.

Some things to avoid:

1. Don't close them in a room with no escape. Bring both into a neutral room (a room that doesn't have the original ferret's cage) that is either big enough for both to escape if they want or just leave the door open. If they feel boxed in, they'll likely get aggressive.
2. Don't just throw them together when the quarantine is finished. Make sure there is a period of time (**usually 1-2 weeks**) where they can smell and see each other without being caged together.

Harness and Leash Training

Ferrets generally *love* being outside and exploring. Walking in nature helps them to stay happy and engaged with new things and you can walk them as much as they want. There will always be different smells to entice them and different birds to watch. My ferrets absolutely love their walks. Here's some tips that can help you walk your ferret like a pro!

- ❖ **Vaccines-** Ferrets can receive a Rabies and Distemper vaccination annually. Keep in mind that ferrets are prone to allergic reactions after getting vaccinated, so this decision should be between you, your veterinarian and your local laws. Note that only one vaccination should be given at a time, with the second shot scheduled for a different vet visit.
- ❖ **Safe Spots-** Don't walk in random areas! Ferrets are sensitive to pesticides, certain plants and can get fleas/ticks from long grassed areas.
- ❖ **Weather-** Generally, I tend not to walk my ferrets much at all in the summer. Temperatures over approximately 75°F are far too hot and overheating or heat stroke is a very serious risk for these adorable creatures. They are comfortable in the 50°F-70°F range. So when walking, opt for cloudy or cool days as opposed to hot, sunny days. Also, keep your ferrets off of the hot pavement or sidewalks. Stick to cool grass and dirt so their paw pads stay comfortable and don't get burnt. Further, windy days can upset their hearing, scare them and cause them to be too cold.
- ❖ **Harness and Leash-** Make sure to stick to a harness when walking a ferret. Using a collar can be harmful to their bodies and not using any harness or leash at all is very dangerous, especially in a public area. There are different harness types, such as a vest, H style and an 8 figure harness. Each has their own quirks, but my ferrets like the H style harness best. Make sure that the harness is not too tight as to choke them and not too loose so they can slip out. The happy middle ground for mine is having just enough room to slip the tip of my pinky under the wires. I would recommend using Etsy to find some great harnesses, especially [PetsGaloreStudio](#). After getting a harness and sizing it, I let mine run around the house a bit and get used to it. This also ensures that they cannot run off if they manage to slip out of the harness. The best type of leashes are cat leashes. These are typically light, thin, and long. Avoid retractable leashes as it can be harmful to your ferret.

- ❖ **Pet Tags/Bells-** I personally have a tag for each of my ferrets. It has their names and "Please call my mom!" with my phone number on the back. Just in case they ever get lost or out, it's best to have one. Bells tend to irritate hearing ferrets and cause hearing issues over an extended period of time. On a deaf ferret though, it could be helpful in case they get away and they can't hear you call out to them.
- ❖ **Bags/Strollers-** Bags can become too hot and not have enough airflow, so it's not recommended to use them for the entire walk. However, if your walking route consists of dogs, this will be helpful in keeping them safe. Strollers work great and similarly for avoiding obstacles. I personally use a [pet stroller](#) for walks, and as their carrier when going to the veterinarian.
- ❖ **Quick tips!-** Walking more than one ferret at a time will be very difficult. All 6 of mine run off in separate directions, so I have to walk each one individually. Bring water and a bowl (no rubber or silicone) for drinking breaks. Back-up leash and harness if you have any available, this makes everything easier if one breaks in the middle of a walk. Make sure to check for fleas and ticks after the walk.

Keeping Ferrets Cool

Temperatures over approximately 75°F are far too hot and overheating or heat stroke is a very serious risk for these adorable creatures. They are comfortable in the 60°F-70°F range. Also ferrets don't sweat, so just a fan won't do much of anything.

Here's some ideas:

- ❖ Air conditioning is the best, but make sure it's not directed inside the cage. Fans and ceiling fans help to circulate the air.
- ❖ Damp washcloths/hand towels in the freezer, and then put them inside the cage so they can lay on it. You can also put the towel over a part of the cage and have a fan blowing very lightly. It'll be a makeshift air conditioner.
- ❖ Fill a plastic water bottle (without the label) with water, leave room for expansion, and put it in the freezer. Put the frozen bottles in the cage, wrapped in a towel. You could also buy a [chilling stone](#), and lay it in the cage for them to lounge on.

- ❖ Get a little kiddie pool (I use [a litter box](#), cleaned out of course) and fill it with very, *very* shallow, cool (not cold) water. Set it in the cage/free room area with towels around so they can wad through it and cool down.
- ❖ Gentle misting with cool water, but make sure it's a very slow gentle mist so they don't get freaked out.
- ❖ Water always, always, **ALWAYS** needs to be available, especially in hot weather. Ice cubes in the water dish will help.
- ❖ Make sure the cage isn't in direct sunlight. You could also make/get a ferret cage cover to keep it cool in the cage.
- ❖ Change out the heavy fabrics and blankets in the cage with lighter ones, like thin bed sheets.

Ferret Proofing

Ensuring the safety of your ferrets is the utmost top priority. Ferret proofing not only keeps them safe, but it keeps you sane. Ferrets need at least 6-8 hours of free room time daily. This means running around your home, much like a cat or dog would. As someone who has had their fair share of knocked over plants, torn up couches and looks of disbelief over how they managed to get there, I made sure to ferret proof. Here's some problem areas and tips to ferret proof your home!

- ❖ **Ferret Bedroom-** A great way to provide great free room time is to give them their own bedroom! My six personally have their own room and they absolutely love it. I have their cages in there, with the bottom doors off, simply for the hammocks and sleeping spots they love. This way, if it's not possible to free room completely yet, they can have a safe zone for all their craziness. This also makes it easier to just start with one specific room and not overwhelm yourself with the entire house just yet, take it one room at a time. You can shut the door or make a [baby gate](#) when it's time for bed or the end of free room time.
- ❖ **If the shoe fits...**- Ferrets can squeeze through the smallest places, especially when you don't think they can. The rule of thumb is that if their head fits, their whole body fits. Cover any holes to ensure they cannot escape. Ferrets can also very easily scratch through window screens, so be sure to close all windows or make sure they can't jump up there. Some ferrets have also been known to be able to fit underneath doors. I would

recommend getting some draft blockers (no rubber or silicone) and attaching them to the bottom of all doors they have access to.

- ❖ **Appliances-** Like stated, ferrets are crazy ambitious when it comes to somewhere they want to go. Make sure that any and all appliances are either completely ferret proofed or blocked off entirely. Ferrets also have a tendency to open kitchen cabinets, so getting some [cabinet locks](#) wouldn't be a bad idea. You could block off entire rooms if needed, such as the kitchen, bathroom (keep toilet seats down so they don't drown) and laundry room. Speaking of the laundry room, please double check that your ferret is not any laundry basket. Many love to sleep in these and could accidentally be put into the washer and/or dryer.
- ❖ **Furniture-** Ferrets love to scratch and claw their way inside of furniture. Most notably, they love sofas and beds. I would take the legs off your sofa or block off the underside with wood or a similar material. Then, I'd get a sofa cover that blocks off all entrances into the cushions and underneath them. As for the bed, I just put mine on the floor. This ensures that none can crawl up inside and get hurt. You could also buy a bed frame with no opening underneath it, such as the types with drawers underneath. Rocking chairs, recliners and swinging ottomans are extremely dangerous for ferrets and should be avoided all together.
- ❖ **Eating Non Food Items-** Ferrets love to try and eat things that they aren't supposed to. Oftentimes, this is food you're eating or fabric materials. This can cause major blockages in the digestive system. The best way to ferret proof for this is to just remove anything small or enticing out of reach. A few of these possible risks include things like foam, packing peanuts, rubber, silicone, cheap squeaky toys. Also, make sure that any and all chemical cleaners, medications, detergents and such are completely locked away where they cannot be reached. These can be fatal if ingested, not mention the scent of these products will bother their delicate respiratory systems. Be sure to double check all pillows and blankets around the house to ensure your ferret isn't snacking on any of them.
- ❖ **Electrical Wires-** Some ferrets love to chew electrical wires, some don't. Thankfully, none of mine care at all about wires, but it's best to cover or remove them in case your ferret becomes adventurous one day. The best solution I've found is using [plastic wire covers](#) to cover any exposed wiring in your home.
- ❖ **High Surfaces-** Ferrets have practically no self preservation whatsoever. They will try to make impossible jumps and climb over crazy things. To

prevent this, just make sure there are no high surfaces they can get on to. They can climb up places very easily, but climbing down can be impossible for them. Sometimes you'll get lucky and they'll make it down safely, but oftentimes ferrets will just jump or fall down. This can cause bone breaks and even internal bleeding. Because ferrets tend to hide all injuries, this can be fatal. Ferrets have been known to die from falling off the back of a sofa.

- ❖ **Plants, Knick Knacks and Garbage-** Certain plants are actually poisonous to ferrets, such as the ones listed in this [website](#). Even plants that aren't poisonous should be kept away. Ferrets love to dig up plants and roll in the dirt. They may even start eating the plants themselves, so definitely have them up high and out of reach. Ferrets love to knock over and break knick knacks, so it's definitely best to just keep them all up. Along the same token, ferrets will gladly knock over and dig through any trash cans so try and move them out of reach.
- ❖ **Stairs-** Block off stairs either using a [baby gate](#) or just not allowing access to that room. Ferrets can easily get hurt or die from falls down stairs.
- ❖ **Fans, Space Heaters, Candles, Fireplaces-** Keep ferrets away! All of these pose very dangerous situations that could take place. As a note, any fragrance sprays, candles or air fresheners can be extremely harmful to ferrets' delicate respiratory systems. No Essential Oils!

Ferret Fun Facts

1. The name ferret is derived from the Latin word, *furritus*. This translates to "little thief". It's said that they were named because of their affinity to steal hen eggs.
2. A group of ferrets is called a business, because they're always so professional.
3. Ferrets will perform a dance when excited, rightfully named the *Weasel War Dance*. This is usually a sign that they want to play and are having fun.
4. Ferrets make a honk-like noise, called dooking. They most often make this noise when very excited, although it can sometimes be a sign of fright or aggression. Ferrets can even wag their tail when happy, though this is more rare.

5. They are pretty fearless when it comes to heights and places to jump to. Ferrets will sometimes try to jump over or onto something for hours until they give up. On top of that, they will jump off things. Make sure your ferret cannot climb too high because they often have much trouble getting back down. Ferrets have been known to die due to internal bleeding from falling off the backs of sofas.
6. Ferrets are closer biologically to cats and dogs than they are to rats or mice. So, they are definitely not rodents and will often try to eat rodents.
7. Ferrets can live up to 15 years, although they average between 6-10 (could be less if a Marshall's ferret) due to their high chance of developing diseases later in life.
8. They sometimes fall into "dead sleep". This is when they are so asleep, they go into a full deadweight mode and can be picked up and moved without making the slightest movement. It is often hard to wake them up in this state.
9. Some ferrets have a congenital defect called Waardenburg syndrome. This leads to deafness in ferrets. It's most notable in ferrets that have a white "blaze" or stripe on their heads, though it can be found in any type of ferret.
10. Ferrets are very near sighted, but have a heightened sense of smell and hearing. Also, they see mostly in shades of grey, with red and blues being most prominent.

Etsy Shops Great for Ferrets

Etsy is by far the best place for ferret accessories and toys. Here are some Etsy shops that have amazing ferret products for all of your fuzzies needs!

❖ [MotorCityFerrets](#)

❖ [TrendyKitty](#)

❖ [FerretZone](#)

❖ [PetsGaloreStudio](#)

- ❖ [Fuzzy Frenzy Crafts](#)
- ❖ [Craftyferretbusiness](#)
- ❖ [atlanticcritters](#)
- ❖ [BeastsOfMischief](#)
- ❖ [FiendishThings](#)
- ❖ [SenkaCraftFactory](#)
- ❖ [FerretShopKidsPets](#)

Ferret Safe Laundry Detergent

It's important to use a laundry detergent that is non toxic when washing your ferret's items. As we all know, they love to burrow into their blankets and nap, and sometimes even play in their blankets as well! So you want to ensure that you are washing everything safely. Essential oils are toxic to ferrets, and can be dangerous to other pets and humans as well. This recipe is made to fit in a 25lb (2 gallon) Tidy Cat container, like the one in the photograph below. While I don't like the product, these containers work perfectly to hold homemade laundry detergent!



Ingredients:

7 quarts of hot water

2 cups of baking soda

1 cup salt

2 cups of liquid unscented soap

1. Mix the baking soda and salt together into a bowl.
2. Slowly add this mixture to the very hot water. Ensure to go slow so it can all dissolve. Stir until fully dissolved.
3. Add in the liquid soap, and again, stir slowly. That's it! Now just close your container and be sure to label it!

This can be used for washing everything in your home, no need to use it exclusively for the ferrets! You can also add some vinegar to help with particularly stinky load. Just simply pour some in, I use about 1 cup of vinegar in those loads.