

THE FERRET NOOK, INC.

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THE TEN DO'S AND DON'TS FOR FERRET CUSTODIANS

DO:

1. Feed a high quality ferret food high in protein (32% or more) like Totally Ferret.
2. Keep fresh, clean water available at all times.
3. Use a pelleted litter (like hardwood fuel pellets, Yesterday's News, etc.) in the litter box.
4. Give your ferret(s) lots of tubes (drainage pipe, PVC pipe, dryer hose), HARD plastic toys, paper bags, practice golf balls, ping pong balls, cardboard boxes with holes cut out (or with shredded paper inside). Have different sets of toys and rotate them to keep your ferret's interest and so the ferrets doesn't get bored.
5. Keep your ferret(s) in a wire cage with lots of bedding like sleep sacks, hammocks, cubes, and always cover the wire bottom of the cage as well as any shelves with some type of cloth material or linoleum. A cage that measures 24"x24"x36" is a good size for 2 ferrets.
6. Ferret proof your home - get down on hands and knees (at a ferret's level) and check the baseboards for any holes 1 inch in diameter or larger; keep rubber items, i.e, pipe insulation, shoe inner soles, cords up and away from reach. Check to make sure a ferret can't get under or behind the stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer or dryer. If you can't ferret proof these appliances, keep your ferret out of the kitchen by using a gate of some sort. Cover heat vents with hardware cloth.
7. Keep your ferret(s) up-to-date with vaccinations FerVac-D or PureVac distemper vaccinations and Imrab-3 rabies vaccination. These vaccinations need to be updated annually.
8. Keep toenails trimmed and ears clean (should be done every 2 weeks).
9. Bathe your ferret with a ferret shampoo (we like to use PPP Ferret Shampoo) no more than once a month. Any more, and you will be drying out your ferret's coat.
10. Spend time with your ferret(s) - you are the most important toy in their life!

DON'T:

1. Please **DO NOT** feed dog food to your ferret(s). Stay away from chocolate (toxic to ferrets) and dairy products (may cause diarrhea).
2. Stay away from cat litter that has baking soda or perfume in it. Never use clumping litter - can cause blockages.
3. Please don't house your ferret in an aquarium. There isn't any ventilation for the ferret.
4. Do not use wood chips (cedar or pine), the oil in them may cause breathing problems, or possibly an upper respiratory infection.
5. Ferret love to hide - do not let ferrets play in recliners (number one cause of accidental death in ferrets), rocking chair, or any movable (mechanical) furniture.
6. Declawing and defanging of ferrets is unacceptable and unnecessary. We can always change the destructive behavior with positive reinforcement.
7. Never let a veterinarian give a combination vaccine (such as DPL2) to a ferret.
8. Never let your ferret(s) play with the following: spongy material, soft rubber or latex toys. Ferrets love to chew and may chew off pieces of the item, ingest it and cause a blockage. Blockages that are not surgically removed will cause death within a 24-hour period of ingestion! **A BLOCKAGE IS AN EMERGENCY** and must be taken to your veterinarian immediately!
9. Never hold a ferret by its tail. Always hold the ferret by the scruff of the neck.
10. The domesticated companion ferret is **NOT** a wild animal. Never leave your ferret unattended, or off lead, when outside. Ferrets cannot survive outside on their own.

Any questions or concerns, please give The Ferret Nook, Inc. a call at (608) 423-3315 or your veterinarian, if a medical problem.