Domestic Ferret

Mustela putorius furo

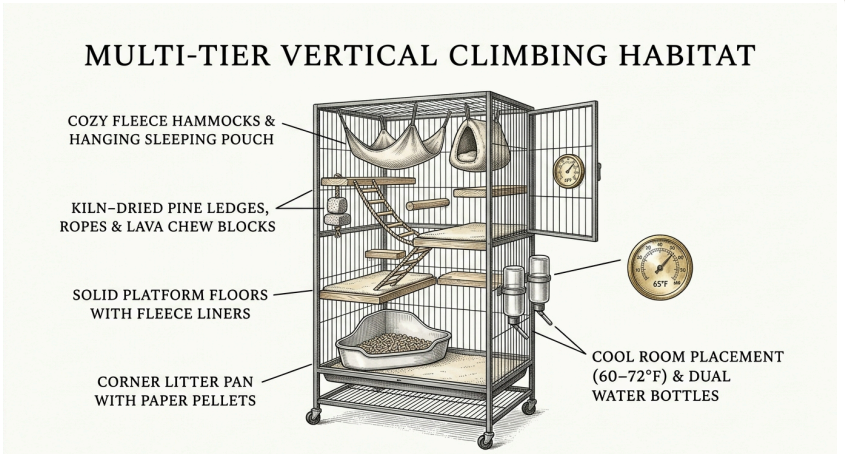
The Quick Version: Ferrets are hilarious, fearless 'perpetual kittens' that sleep soundly for 14–18 hours a day and then erupt into bouncing 'weasel war dances' and dooking chuckles when awake! Three essentials keep them safe: **strictly high-protein meat/carnivore diet (zero carbs, fruit, or veggies!)**, **washable cloth hammocks & liners (never wood shavings!)**, and **obsessive ferret-proofing against rubber/foam swallowing**.



LIFESPAN	ADULT SIZE	SOCIAL RULE	MIN CAGE SIZE	ROOM TEMP
6–9 Years	15–20" (1.5–4.5 lbs)	Best in Pairs ('Business')	Midwest Ferret Nation (36×24×36"+)	60°–72°F (Overheats >78°F)

1. Multi-Tier Ferret Nation Cage, Hammocks & Lock-On Litter Pans

USE FLEECE LINERS & HAMMOCKS ONLY (NO LOOSE WOOD SHAVINGS!) + 4 HOURS DAILY OUT-OF-CAGE PLAY!



Ideal Room Temp
Ferrets tolerate cool well but overheat fast above 78°F
60°–72°F

Heatstroke Alert (>80°F)
Above 80°F causes rapid heat exhaustion!
Never >78°F

Bedding Choice
Washable fleece liners, sleep sacks & hanging hammocks
Fleece Only

Litter Pan Style
High-backed corner/square pan with paper or wood pellets
Lock-On Pan

Out-of-Cage Play
Minimum 3–4 hours daily in a ferret-proofed room!
3–4 Hrs / Day

2. Two Ways That Work — Pick What Fits Your Home

SHORT & SWEET: BOTH OPTIONS WORK GREAT

Enclosure: Multi-Level Ferret Nation Cage + Fleece Hammock Canopy

Ferrets are denning carnivores, not rodents — they need sleeping hammocks and covered ramps, never wood shavings:

OPTION A: MIDWEST FERRET NATION DOUBLE-UNIT CAGE (OUR TOP PICK!)
Full-width double doors make daily litter scooping effortless, solid plastic pans protect feet, and fleece ramp covers prevent toes from catching.

OPTION B: FLEECE SLEEP SACKS, COMF-E-CUBES & DARK HAMMOCKS
Ferrets need pitch-dark sleeping spots to support healthy melatonin levels (which helps protect against adrenal disease!). Wash their fleece weekly to cut down 'ferret musk' by 80%!

Litter Box Reality & The #1 Killer: Swallowed Rubber/Foam!

Critical Safety Law: Young ferrets love chewing squishy rubber and foam — which causes #1 emergency intestinal blockages!

OPTION A: FERRET-PROOF BEFORE EVERY PLAY SESSION
Pick up Crocs/foam shoes, rubber ear-buds, pencil erasers, latex dog toys, silikon bottle nipples, and check under reclining chairs and gap-toothed appliances!

OPTION B: HIGH-BACK LOCK-ON LITTER PAN + YESTERDAY'S NEWS / PAPER PELLETS
Ferrets back into corners with their tail up! Clamp a high-back Marshall Lock-On pan in their favorite corner with unscented paper pellets (**never clumping clay litter!**).

Keeping a 'Business' (2+ Ferrets) & Nip-Training Kits

A group of ferrets is called a 'business' — and two ferrets tire each other out playing:

OPTION A: PAIR OF BONDED FERRETS + TUNNEL TUBES
Two ferrets wrestle, chase each other through 10-foot clear Marshall Super Thru-Way tunnels, and curl up together in a single hammock.

OPTION B: GENTLE NIP-TRAINING FOR YOUNG KITS
Ferrets have thick skin and play-nip each other! If a kit nips too hard, give a calm 'uh-uh' and a 2-minute time-out — never flick their nose.

3. Strict Obligate Carnivore Diet (38%+ Protein • 18%+ Fat • <4% Fiber)

A FERRET'S GUT TAKES ONLY 3 HOURS TO DIGEST FOOD — KEEP KIBBLE & WATER AVAILABLE 24/7!

24/7 Kibble Always Full Bowl	**Wysong Epigen 90, Marshall Premium, or Oxbow Carnivore Diet (Blend 2–3 Brands!):** Ferrets imprint on food shapes by 6 months old — blending 2 kibbles prevents hunger strikes if one brand is out of stock!
Meat Treats Daily Small Piece	**Freeze-Dried Chicken/Turkey Bites, Salmon Oil Drop, or Raw/Cooked Egg Yolk:** 100% pure animal protein and fat only!
Strict Zero-Carb 0% Plant/Sugar	**NEVER Feed Fruit, Veggies, Grains, Peas, Raisins, or Sugary Pastes:** Ferrets cannot digest plant fiber, and sugar damages their pancreas (causing insulinoma).

Why Bathing a Ferret Makes Them Smell *Worse*:

- **Skip Soap Baths!** Bathing strips skin oils and makes their scent glands work overtime!
- **Wash Fleece Weekly** 90% of ferret odor is actually in their hammocks — wash weekly with unscented soap
- **Raw Egg During Shed** 1 raw/whisked egg yolk a week during spring/fall sheds helps prevent hairballs
- **Vaccines & Vet Care** Ferrets need annual Canine Distemper & Rabies vaccines from an exotic vet!

Know the Signs of Hairball / Foreign Body Blockage: If your ferret ever paws frantically at the roof of its mouth, grinds its teeth, has thin 'pencil-lead' droppings, or vomits/dry-heaves, do not wait — call an exotic emergency vet immediately!

4. Tips, Tricks & Big No-Nos from Our Animal Care Team

REAL-WORLD HABITS THAT KEEP THEM THRIVING

Check Recliner Chairs & Couches

Before sitting in a recliner or rocking chair, or closing a dishwasher/dryer door, always count every ferret — they love burrowing inside furniture cushions!

Easy Nail Trims with Salmon Oil

Put a dab of salmon oil on your ferret's belly while they sit in your lap — they'll lick their tummy blissfully while you clip all 20 nails in 60 seconds!

Never Let Food Run Empty

Because ferrets have an ultra-fast 3-hour digestive tract and high metabolism, going more than 4–6 hours without food causes dangerous low blood sugar.

Watch for Middle-Age Slowdown

In ferrets aged 3+, hind-leg weakness or staring into space can signal low blood sugar (insulinoma), and tail hair loss signals adrenal disease — both are very treatable by an exotic vet!

5. Grab-and-Go Setup Checklist

ASK US ON THE FLOOR — WE'LL HELP YOU MATCH EVERYTHING!

MULTI-TIER CAGE & HAMMOCKS

- [ ] Midwest Ferret Nation Cage (Single or Double Unit)
- [ ] 3–4 Washable Fleece Hammocks, Sleep Sacks & Comf-E-Cubes
- [ ] Marshall High-Back Lock-On Litter Pan + Paper Pellet Litter
- [ ] Washable Fleece Pan & Ramp Liners (Zero Wood Shavings!)

OBLIGATE CARNIVORE DIET & BOWLS

- [ ] Wysong Epigen 90 + Marshall Premium Ferret Diet (Blend 2 Kibbles!)
- [ ] Freeze-Dried Chicken/Liver Treats + Salmon Oil (No Sugar/Fruit!)
- [ ] Lock-On Crock Food Bowl + Heavy Water Bowl & Lixit Bottle

TUNNELS, GROOMING & SAFETY

- [ ] Clear Marshall Super Thru-Way Play Tunnel & Hard Plastic Bell Balls
- [ ] Ferret Nail Clippers + Ear Cleaner
- [ ] Figure-8 Ferret Harness & Lead (for safe outdoor yard exploring)

A Quick Note from Our Team — Keep Learning & Ask Us Anytime!

The quick version: there's more than one right way to set up a great enclosure! As long as your temperatures, humidity, and diet are dialed in, your pet doesn't care whether its hide is a fancy wooden arch or a cozy fleece tunnel. Bringing home this critter is a **6–9 year commitment** — use these two pages as your home-base cheat sheet, watch what your pet tells you with their daily behavior, find a good local exotic vet, and call or stop by the shop anytime you have questions!

MY FERRETS' INFO

Name / Morph: _____

Current Diet: _____

Date Adopted: _____