

Ferrets

FACTSHEET

All animals need the following five things to be happy and healthy: a comfortable home, suitable diet, companionship, normal behaviour and vet care.

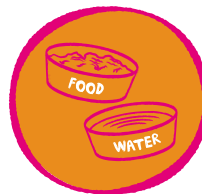
Find out how you can care for ferrets by using the information below.



HOME

Animals need a comfortable home with enough space to exercise.

An ideal ferret home would be a converted garden shed with an aviary attached, or a large walk in dog kennel and run with a 'double door' so that your ferrets can't slip out while you are coming in.



DIET

Animals need a healthy diet and access to fresh water at all times.

Ferrets are carnivores and a good quality, complete dry ferret food will make sure they have everything they need, but they would also enjoy a tasty treat such as boiled chicken or a raw egg. They also need fresh, clean water and in the summer this is even more important.



COMPANIONSHIP

Some animals need friends of their own kind, some would rather live by themselves.

Ferrets love to have other ferrets to play with and to snuggle up with while they sleep. If they haven't lived together before though it's really important to make sure they are introduced to each other carefully – it is always worth asking an expert for help with this.



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NORMAL BEHAVIOUR

Animals need exciting things to do and space to behave normally.

Ferrets are very inquisitive animals who have short bursts of energy in which they love to run, climb and explore. They also like to sleep for 16-20 hours a day so it is important that they have a cosy and comfortable sleeping area and plenty to do. Some of their favourite toys include pipes and tubes, cat toys, a sandpit or shallow paddling pool used as a ball pool and large paper sacks filled with shredded paper as they get really excited by rustling noises.



VET CARE

Animals need to be kept healthy and see the vet if they are sick or injured.

Ferrets can suffer with diarrhoea which can make them very poorly, very quickly so it important to check their poo every day. If your ferret has runny poo which is black or green for more than a day then they may have something called Green Slime Disease and it's time to get them to the vet! Ferrets' nails grow continuously, and need to be clipped every four weeks. If left unclipped, long nails can make walking very uncomfortable and lead to joint and back problems.



DID YOU KNOW THAT FERRETS LOVE TO GO FOR WALKS?

Be sure to buy them a **secure harness** and **lead** and be prepared for some funny looks and questions from anyone you meet out on your walk!



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