Holistic Pet Care

Exotic Animal Guide – Ferrets

Basic Information

- Average size: 15 inches long
- Lifespan: 5-10 years with proper care
- Average weight: 2 - 4 ½ lbs
- Sleeps 15-18 hours a day.
- Carnivores

Habitat and Toys

- Large, multi-tier pen/cage with secure door and solid flooring.
  Ensure habitat is escape proof, as they will try.
- Enclosure should have plenty of hiding places and bedding material to dig
  - Can be litter trained. Clean daily
- Proper bedding with crumple paper or soft animal bedding
  - Deep clean entire habitat once a week
- Have several toys: bells, ball toys, hammocks, paper bags, cardboard boxes, ball pit, long tubes
  - Clean and filtered water in bowl

Diet/Treats

Proper diet: Daily

- Raw food/eat: chicken, beef, lamb, eggs, birds
- Ensure raw food has flesh/skin, organ meat, muscle meat and edible bones

Treats: Offer once or twice a week

- Anything with high meat/protein content.
- Meaty treat sticks
Health Guide

Positive Health Qualities:
- Playful and active energy
- Assortment of chirping/chattering sounds
- Digging and hiding in “dens”
- Shiny coat and clear eyes
- Eating and drinking regularly
- Naps regularly

Red Flags of Concern:
- Weight Loss
- Hair Loss
- Diarrhea
- Lethargic
- Mouth sensitivity

General Care:
Physical examinations annually
Trim nails every 2-3 weeks
Bathe with specific Ferret shampoo monthly

Common Health Concerns

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<tr>
<th>Health Concern</th>
<th>Symptoms</th>
<th>Actions to Take</th>
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<tr>
<td>Diarrhea</td>
<td>Loose stool caused by poor diet, stress, internal parasites or unclean housing</td>
<td>Have fecal tested with veterinarian to determine cause and treat accordingly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ear mites</td>
<td>Parasite causing itching and brownish discharge from ears</td>
<td>Physical exam with veterinarian, determine type of mites and treat accordingly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper Respiratory Infection</td>
<td>Crusty eyes, nasal discharge and difficulty breathing</td>
<td>Consult veterinarian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adrenal Gland disorder</td>
<td>Caused by early spay/neutering; loss of hair</td>
<td>Consult veterinarian</td>
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