



# CASCADE SUMMIT

NEWS FROM CASCADE FERRET NETWORK VOL. 6 ISSUE 2 / SPRING, 2005

## Network Status Update

### Who We Are

The Cascade Ferret Network (CFN) is different from traditional ferret shelters: instead of housing the ferrets in a single place, the CFN depends upon a network of qualified foster homes, each of which cares for only a few ferrets at a time. This network approach to sheltering ensures our foster ferrets receive the highest possible quality of care. You can reach the CFN at (503) 231-0887 or [www.cascadeferret.org](http://www.cascadeferret.org)



### Ferrets

During January, February, and March of 2005, CFN took in 7 ferrets and found new homes for 19 ferrets, 5 of which were through referrals. Loki and Eliza, both long time shelter residents passed away during the first 3 months of 2005.

Veterinary procedures during the 1st quarter of 2005 included treatment for glaucoma by an eye specialist, three lupron injections, eleven melatonin implants, one adrenal surgery, one insulinoma surgery, and five dentistry with four tooth extractions.

CFN traveled more than 1,246 miles during the 1st quarter of 2005 in the course of transporting ferrets and educating the public. Currently, there are 42 ferrets in the network, 22 of which are being fostered.

### Financial

Income from donations, the sale of merchandise, and fees from adoptions and boarding services help to pay for the veterinary costs of the Cascade Ferret Network. The CFN relies upon contributions to pay for food, bedding, litter and other expenses such as phone and utility bills. The following is a preliminary summary of the revenue and expenses for CFN during the first quarter of 2005.

#### 1st quarter 2005

##### Revenue

Adoption fees.....	\$390
Boarding fees.....	\$70
Donations (Cash).....	\$3,252
Merchandise profit.....	\$924
TOTAL.....	\$4,636

##### Expenses

Vet/medical costs.....	\$3,546
Other.....	\$451
TOTAL.....	\$3,997

## Helping Hands

### Volunteers

The backbone of the Cascade Ferret Network is our team of devoted volunteers. The CFN's high standard of ferret care is only possible because of our foster parents and the crew at the central facility.

One of the most rewarding ways to help out the CFN is to provide foster care for CFN ferrets. A foster parent takes one or more ferrets into their home and cares for them as their own pets, but the CFN takes care of their medical costs and provides a cage and other equipment. Some foster ferrets are short-term residents who need a little extra time to recover from surgery or receive their vaccinations before they are placed into a permanent home. Other foster ferrets need extra attention to recover from a neglectful or abusive

past -- these kids need anything from extra feedings each day to lots of handling and love to get them past problem behavior. (i.e. biting)

Another way to help out is to work at the central facility, where volunteers clean cages, medicate and feed ferrets, and of course play with ferrets. Volunteering at the central facility is both soul satisfying & fun!

### Donations

The Cascade Ferret Network is a 501(C)(3) non-profit corporation, so your donations may be tax deductible. Donations towards the veterinary bill can be made directly to Southwest Animal Hospital. Call them at (503) 643-2137. Their address is: 6139 SW Murray Blvd, Beaverton, OR 97008.

### Donation Acknowledgment

CFN is grateful to all the individuals that donated supplies during the first three months of 2005. *Brandon Barnett* donated food. *Katrina Ramsell* donated various cleaning supplies. *Petco* donated 32lbs. of returned food and a large assortment of animal carriers that we can resell. *The Portland Luthern School* donated 60 rolls of toilet paper and 36 rolls of paper towels.

The only item appreciated as much as the donation of time or supplies is the donation of money! The following individuals made generous donations of cash to CFN during the 1st quarter of 2005: *Marla Blaney, Stan Boyes, Ann Lynde, Anna Wellborn & Mike Eadie, Barry Dick, Arlene Nelson, Ross & Jennifer Bachman, Robin & Flavia Williams, Michalyn Steiner, Keeli Adams and Jeff Mulcaster.*

Several people have made donations to CFN who work for companies that have matching fund programs; so CFN gets even more benefit from their generosity. CFN received matching funds from employees at *Nike* and *PGE*.



The most unexpected donation during the first 3 months of 2005 came from an anonymous individual who donated through a matching funds program that resulted in CFN getting a check for \$1,000! Thank you whoever you are!

### FLOWERS FOR FERRETS

CFN has a new fund raiser and you don't need to be a ferret fanatic to appreciate it.



This is something everyone can use and makes a great gift for friends, relatives, and businesses. Have you ever had a problem finding a pen when you need one? Do all your pens end up wondering off or worming their way between the cushions on the couch where they accumulate until the next time you do a thorough vacuuming job? If so, Cascade Ferret Network has a fun way to help both you and the shelter ferrets: a flower pot filled with a bouquet of pens that will always find their way back to the pot.

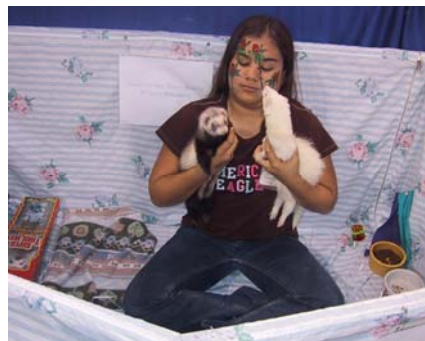
These pots are very cheerful and can really brighten up any countertop, desk or table. Each pot filled with flower pens can be on your desk at work or near the phone at home for a minimum donation of only \$15 to CFN.

### Event Reports

The Cascade Ferret Network participated in several educational events in the last several months. In addition to our monthly visits to the Petsmart in Vancouver, CFN made four educational presentations about ferrets at two local schools: Sunnyside Environmental School and Portland Luthern School. I'm grateful to *Lavon Grahn* for helping out with all of the school presentations.

The 4th annual Northwest Pet & Companion Fair was held April 16th & 17th at the expo center. The weather was terrible, but lots of people came out to the fair and got a chance to interact with and learn about ferrets at CFN's booth. CFN is very grateful to the following volunteers who helped staff CFN's booth: *Heather Christy & her sister Adrienne, Nancy White, Lavon Grahn, Jennifer Fresta, Teresa Wickcliffe, Kelli Carlson, Kelly Dowell & her two daughters, Jessica & Latisha, Sally Filler and Julie Tench.*

Special acknowledgment needs to go to the valiant ferrets that allowed hoards of visitors to pet them: *China & Minnie, Tucson, Kit Kat, Bobbie Sue, & Hermione, Hagrid & Slinky, Annabelle, Isabelle & Slinky, Crisco & Butters, Bucky and Geoffrey.*



Jessica Dowell (in the playpen) at CFN's booth at the Pet fair. She is holding Butters (sable) and Crisco (albino).

### CFN Foster Parents

Thanks to the following individuals that provided foster care from January through March:

- Marla Blaney** (Amaretto)
- Lavon Grahn** (Possum, Chickadee, Zima, Petree, Sophie & Hattie)
- Carla Almaraz** (Forest Gump & Tattletail)
- Greg Sorrel** (Minx & Jinx)
- Karen Brecknock** (Midge)
- Karen Kloeck** (Truffle & Candy)
- Debi Breitenbauch** (Calaban, Tempest & Veela)
- Rebecca Bogarad** (Natasha)
- Katie Hanson** (Barnaby & Bartholomew)
- Jeanne Brumbaugh** (Io)
- Jennifer Fresta** (Mr. Green Jeans)
- Chris & Amy Christian** (Zest & Zinc)

### Shelter Status

Even with a recent article on the front page of the Metro section of The Oregonian on April 26<sup>th</sup>, there have been no leads or follow ups regarding a new location to serve as a central facility for CFN. This is imperative as the current network coordinator will be moving soon.

There has also been no progress finding volunteers to take over the tasks presently being done by the coordinator. Please don't hesitate to offer your support to CFN by volunteering to help during this transition period with your time, money, or property. Contact CFN if you have any ideas or resources that you could contribute regarding the following:

- 1) An inexpensive building that CFN could purchase or lease to serve as a new facility
- 2) Property that could be donated or purchased where a new shelter could be built
- 3) People that have experience or connections in construction,



building permits, plumbing, wiring...

- 4) A basement, garage or other space at least 12' x 12' with the ability to be climate controlled with a water supply, and that can be isolated with a separate entrance to temporarily house incoming ferrets (until a new facility can be built, bought, or leased)
- 5) Sources of funding for the purpose of acquiring and maintaining a new facility
- 6) Volunteers to donate time if a new facility is established
- 7) Volunteers to provide foster homes or permanent homes for ferrets currently in the network
- 8) A storage space for CFN assets (cages, equipment, supplies) that we don't want to sell

If you have any ideas, abilities, or resources as requested above, please contact Dr. Katrina Ramsell at: [exoticpetvet@hotmail.com](mailto:exoticpetvet@hotmail.com) or leave a phone message at (503) 356-4948.

We plan on scheduling a meeting in the near future to discuss ideas and options and we would love you to attend and be part of the solution. The ferrets are exceedingly grateful for any help you can give to the CFN!

### Tribute to Tucson

Tucson was my miracle shelter boy. There are so many sad endings to ferret stories that involve health problems, but Tucson was one of those cases that Dr Ramsell and I would frequently remember when we needed to have our spirits lifted after the tragedy of someone not recovering from a surgery or dying despite everything we could think of trying. Martin, Lunabelle, Toco, Venus, Penelope, Pekoe are just a few that come immediately to mind that we struggled with and lost.

Tucson arrived in August of 2001 as a very sick ferret. He was emaciated

and dehydrated and very weak. He had been found wondering the parking lot of an apartment complex. He immediately got subcutaneous fluids to rehydrate and was started on supplemental souping to gain weight. His toenails were amazing, the people that found him said they had already trimmed them, but they were some of the longest, thickest nails I've ever seen on a ferret and I immediately trimmed them to a normal length. I left Tucson to recover from his arrival and when I returned in an hour or so I was horrified to see his cage completely covered in blood! The source was one of his recently clipped nails that had gotten wedged in a crack between the side and the floor of his cage and had been ripped off. The bleeding had stopped, but I was very worried about blood loss when he was so weak to begin with. Despite his tragic start, Tucson quickly improved and appeared to be on the road to recovery, but suddenly took a nosedive. He lost weight and had dark bloody looking stools. He became severely anemic and the vets thought he might have a foreign body in his stomach. We did blood tests, barium x-rays, treated him for ulcers and nothing helped. He also became extremely itchy (which continued through the rest of his life). He was so anemic that the act of scratching all his itches would completely exhaust him and he had no energy for anything else. It wasn't much of a life and I was forced to the realization that I had to make a choice between having him euthanized or putting him through a risky exploratory surgery. Tucson made it through the surgery with the help of a blood transfusion from a shelter ferret. He had an adrenal gland removed and they took biopsies of his digestive tract. He didn't have a foreign body in his stomach, but his stomach was very abnormal. The pathologist said he had a condition, rarely found in

dogs, where the acid producing cells in the lining of the stomach become hyperactive and thickened. This condition was causing lesions in his stomach and blood loss which caused the anemia. Because of the thickening of the stomach lining, the space inside his stomach was significantly reduced and was unable to hold much food. I started feeding him small amounts of soup every couple of hours and we started him on some new drugs used to help humans with excess acid production. He finally started showing some improvement and eventually was able to maintain himself on a special diet. He became more active and we eventually weaned him off of all the medications that seemed to have helped him improve and I decided that someone could now adopt him. I soon realized I couldn't bear to part with him after being through so much to get him healthy, so I decided Tucson should become one of my personal pets.



~Tucson~

Tucson was used as an ambassador ferret at many, many public events. His last event was the most recent pet fair in April. Tucson would allow himself to be held and would even fall asleep in my lap, he would give anyone kisses and he liked all other ferrets. I used him on many occasions to find out if someone's ferret liked other ferrets or not; the owner would then know if adopting a friend for their ferret would or would not be a good thing to do.



Tucson had several frustrating behaviors. One of them was his digging in the food dish and water bowl - oh did he ever make a mess! It wasn't just the clean up that was an issue. He was on an expensive prescription diet which was distressing to see go to waste. Tucson was also one of the worst ferrets for using the litterpan I've ever cared for. When he was sick I blamed it on how weak he was, but even after he recovered I had to keep him in a very small cage with a huge litterpan to avoid accidents. When we adopted him and he moved into our pets' huge cage. We had to completely adjust our cage setup to try to mediate his 0% litterpan behavior, but he always more than made up for his bad behavior by being totally adorable 100% of the time.

A few months ago we noticed Tucson wasn't as active as he had been and was stopping in the middle of his play time and lying down for a few seconds. This wasn't the normal "flat ferret" routine we are familiar with, something was wrong, I suspected low blood sugar, but blood tests showed a VERY serious liver situation that was unlikely to get better. He was put on some medications that might help, but wouldn't fix the problem. We knew our time with him was limited, so we tried to spend as much quality time as possible with him. He never appeared to be distressed and was still playful if not quite as exuberant as he had been in the past. On the morning of his death he was doing his normal cute things, hauling around a tennis ball, splashing in the water bowl, and trotting around with his cute gait which is why I was in shock after finding him cold and stiff in the afternoon, I couldn't believe it. Something catastrophic must have happened. The necropsy showed that a tumor in his liver had ruptured and he had bled to death internally. It was quick and he didn't

suffer painfully, which is so much better than so many of the deaths I have had to oversee. The shock of its suddenness is very hard to accept. Tucson's death has left a huge hole in my heart.



## Health Matters

### Melatonin Treatment of Hyperadrenocorticism In Ferrets

by Michael Janke

Reviewed for accuracy by Dr. Jerry Murray

There are several options for the treatment of adrenal disease in ferrets. Most will agree that surgery is the best option; however, surgery is not possible in all cases. The ferret may be a high surgical or anesthetic risk, or the owner simply may not have the funds needed. Fortunately, there are several non-surgical options and this article will discuss one of those options - the use of melatonin for both the treatment of adrenal disease and the possibility of using it as a preventative measure. Lupron Depot is another option, and while it works wonderfully (in this author's experience) it may be cost prohibitive in some cases. The use of Lupron Depot is discussed in detail in several places on his website.

### HOW MELATONIN WORKS

Melatonin is a natural hormone that is released by the pineal gland (a tiny structure located at the base of the brain) in response to darkness. Conversely, the release of melatonin is inhibited by light. According to Dr. Jerry Murray, "Melatonin directly and indirectly activates the breeding season (spring/summer) during the 'long day' photoperiods, and it terminates the breeding season (fall/winter) during the 'short day' photoperiods. In the fall/winter there is more melatonin released during the dark time and less released in the spring/summer. In addition to the breeding season, the increased melatonin causes the winter fur to come in and the winter weight gain. Likewise the low levels cause the summer fur to come in and the summer weight loss."

It is likely that the abnormal lighting to which we subject our ferrets may be at least partially responsible for the high incidence of adrenal disease. Their in-home environment is naturally light during daylight hours and we add many hours of artificial light on top of that during the evening hours. This constant lighting causes a natural reduction of the ferret's production of melatonin and adds to the stimulation (LH) to the adrenal glands.

So how does melatonin combat the effects of adrenal disease? Once again from Dr. Murray: "Melatonin inhibits GnRH release, which decreases LH and FSH and stops the stimulation to the adrenal glands [Adrenal glands have LH receptors] which decreases the amount of adrenal sex hormones being produced."

The overproduction of sex hormones is what causes the typical symptoms we see with adrenal disease in ferrets. Hair loss, vulva swelling in females, prostate swelling in males and sexual or aggressive



behavior; any one or more of these symptoms may be present. If this constant stimulation can be stopped, the results can often be dramatic. Hair grows, the vulva or prostate swelling resolves, and except in some cases of carcinoma, the adrenal glands may get no larger and in some cases may actually reduce in size.

**TREATMENT PROTOCOL**

A suggested dosage is 1 milligram of melatonin given around 7-9 hours after sunrise. This timing would mimic the body's natural release of melatonin during the short days of fall and winter. In cases where there is no response to this level of melatonin, up to 3 milligrams may be given daily. In mink, doses as high as 78.2 mg produced no adverse side effects in adults, and doses as high as 124 mg/kg produced no side effects in kits. The only side effects seen in ferrets have been sleepiness for the first 3-5 days when beginning this treatment and weight gain. Some ferrets will even get fat pads on the sides of their necks.

In a study conducted by the University of Wisconsin, 10 ferrets with confirmed adrenocortical disease were given 0.5 mg of melatonin (liquid) daily and were monitored over the course of a year. Nine of the ten ferrets had moderate to dramatic improvement in clinical signs including hair growth, reduction of vulva swelling, or reduction of prostatic size. There was no significant change in the size of the adrenal glands. This can be interpreted to mean that although the size of the gland was not reduced, they also did not get any larger during the one year study.

The most difficult part of this treatment protocol is compliance with the timing of giving melatonin 7-9 hours after sunrise. For many, this means the dosage would be due while still at work. A more

convenient method that Dr. Murray uses is the male mink melatonin implant. This implant is roughly the size of a grain of rice that is injected subcutaneously (under the skin) over the shoulder blade area. The implant slowly releases melatonin over a 3-4 month period and eliminates the need to give melatonin daily.

**HOW CAN MELATONIN PREVENT ADRENAL DISEASE?**

Any endocrine tissue which is constantly stimulated over a long period of time becomes hyperplastic, and the more cell cycles and stimulation, the greater the chance for neoplasia. This is particularly true with organs that secrete hormones, such as the adrenal glands.

Although there have been no controlled studies to prove this theory, by giving melatonin before a ferret develops adrenal disease, we may be able to prevent the constant stimulation of the adrenal glands. This may prevent the glands from becoming hyperplastic and eventually, neoplastic.

**WHERE DO I GET MELATONIN?**

Melatonin is both inexpensive and readily available in the U.S. One can find melatonin at health food stores, the local drugstore or supermarkets and even at Wal-Mart. It comes in both a pill and a liquid form but one must pay close attention to the actual amount of melatonin contained within the particular form, particularly liquid. Because melatonin that is available in these stores is treated as a supplement (and not a drug) it is not controlled by the FDA. This means that the actual quantity and quality of melatonin in the product is not regulated or guaranteed. Price is not always an indication of quality either, but one may do better to buy a known brand name. Melatonin may

not be available over the counter in countries other than the United States (i.e. Canada).

One form of melatonin that has been found to work much better than oral melatonin is an implant that was created for the mink and fox fur industry. This implant provides a steady level of melatonin over a three to four month period, eliminating the need to dose your ferret at a specific time daily with an oral product. Neo-Dynamics, LLC originally supplied these implants to veterinarians for use in ferrets. This company no longer serves this segment and the implants are now marketed and sold exclusively through Melatek, LLC as Ferretonin. Website: [www.melatek.net](http://www.melatek.net) and phone: (877) 635-2835.

Ferretonin comes prepackaged in a single dose, sterilized syringe (implant device) with needle. It contains the same amount of melatonin (5.4 mg) as the male mink melatonin implant. Contact your veterinarian for pricing information. If you need bulk quantities, they may be purchased as aseptic individual implant packages. Contact Melatek for more information. Please note that they will only sell this product to a veterinarian.

**WHY IS THE ORAL DOSAGE DIFFERENT THAN THE IMPLANT?**

Several have asked why ferrets have to receive 1 mg of melatonin orally every day, but if given as an implant, 5.4 mg will last three to four months. The short answer is that when given orally, it is a brief pulse of melatonin whereas when given as an implant, a constant, steady level of melatonin is provided over a long period of time.





**WHAT IF MELATONIN DOES NOT WORK FOR MY FERRET?**

There may be instances where neither melatonin nor Lupron will produce the expected or desired results. This would be the case if the adrenal gland is affected in a way that causes it to secrete sex hormones independent of any outside influence (some carcinomas). In these cases, the only option is surgical removal of the affected gland. There also may be cases where melatonin alone does not work, but Lupron will. One can use both products (melatonin and Lupron) at the same time.

Thanks to Dr. Jerry Murray for taking the time to review this article for accuracy and for adding his expertise on the subject.

For more information on melatonin usage:

- 1) Diagnostic Laboratory Insight with Regard to Adrenal Disease by Jack Oliver ( U of Tenn), Proc 20th ACVIM 2002, p541-543.
- 2) Melatonin use in ferret adrenal gland disease by J. Paul-Murphy (U of Wisconsin) Proc N. Am. Vet Conf. Vol 15, 2001 pg 897.
- 3) Melatonin therapy for canine alopecia. Kirk's CVT 13 by Manon Paradis (U de Montreal) p546-549. She also describes the mink melatonin implant.
- 4) Diagnosis and Treatment of Adrenal Tumors in Ferrets by James Johnson (Texas A&M) Annual Exotic Pets Conf. 2001 p3-6.
- 5) Studies on the duration of the breeding season and photorefractoriness in female ferrets pinealectomized or treated with melatonin. By Penelope Thorpe + J. Herbert (U of Cambridge) Journal of Endocrinology 1976, 70, p 255-262.

- 6) Effect of oral melatonin administration on sex hormone, prolactin, and thyroid hormone concentrations in adult dogs. By Patricia Ashley et al (U of Tenn) JAVMA Vol 215 No 8, 10/15/99, p 1111-1115.
- 7) Induction of winter fur growth in mink with melatonin. By J. Rose, J. Anim Sci, 1984 Vol 58 p 57-61.
- 8) The role of luteinizing hormone in the pathogenesis of hyperadrenocorticism in neutered ferrets. By N.J. Schoemaker, et al. (Utrecht University), Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology, 2002, vol. 197, p 117-125.

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**Just for Fun**

**Legend of the Great White Weasel**



Several months ago a message was left on CFN's voice mail from someone that was looking for a couple of white ferrets. They weren't looking to adopt the ferrets, they needed them for a film project they

**Melatonin Implants Available**

The Cascade Ferret Network is offering melatonin implants to the general public. The fee is \$30 per implant. For more information or to arrange having a melatonin implant placed in your ferret, call CFN at 231-0887.

had been working on called -- *The Legend of the Great White Weasel*. The message referred to a web page ([www.greatwhiteweasel.com](http://www.greatwhiteweasel.com)) and mentioned a donation to CFN.

Never one to turn down the opportunity to get a donation or good media exposure for the shelter, I returned the call and told Ted Laiman that we could come up with a couple of photogenic white ferrets for his project. I decided the two best ferrets for this assignment were China and Zima; both are big beautiful girls with thick coats of white fur. I asked Zima's foster parent, Lavon Grahn, to assist me on the day of the shooting. We spent about an hour with Ted while he got footage of the girls interacting with the film props and meandering outdoors in his backyard and even up in a tree. Zima and China did a great job thanks to liberal amounts of ferretone. The CFN received a check in the amount of \$50.

The movie looks like a lot of fun and I hope we get to see CFN's shelter stars on the big screen someday once Ted gets the film completed (he estimated that would take anywhere from 6 months to two years). Ted plans on having a special screening as a fund raiser for a local kid's charity when it is finished, and he said CFN would be invited and be credited in the film.



## Quality of Life

### Enrichment: Caging: From Drags to Enrichment (Part E) By Bob Church\*

5. Almost ALL cages require feeding areas to be adjacent to latrines; either beside them on the floor of the cage, or above them on a shelf. Beside the fact this GREATLY increases the chances of contaminating the food; ferrets have an extremely sensitive sense of smell. Imagine how you would feel if forced to eat your dinner in the bathroom of a restaurant, and then multiply it by a factor of thousands. Ferrets eat in close proximity to latrines because they have no choice and have adapted. However, I have found ferrets allowed to free roam tend to eat at the food location FARTHEST from the latrine. I have also found older and sick ferrets eat BETTER when the latrine is a considerable distance from the food dish. Even in multi-level ferret cages, the food is never more than a few feet from the latrine.

6. Privacy and security are not just the presence of nesting boxes, although that is part of it. Ferret cages are open-air affairs, having ALL four sides and the roof

constructed of wire mesh. This allows people to observe the ferret well, but it NEVER addresses the ferret's need for privacy and security. In a free roam situation, a startled ferret can flee from a sound, then, feeling protected while hidden behind something, will poke their nose out to see what is going on. What can a caged ferret do? Few have a nesting box to hide in, and most have to try and hide in a hammock or behind a litter box.

All these problems, and more, result in stress on the ferret. Short-term stresses generally result in a flight or fight response. Long-term stresses are a different matter. They increase the long-term (chronic) production of adrenal cortex hormones, which tend to inhibit the production of hormones from the thyroid gland. Both, when occurring during growth and development, can retard growth. In many ferrets, it can also result in GAS depression. GAS (General Adaptation Syndrome) occurs in most chronically stressed animal species--including ferrets. It can cause depression, lack of interest, stress-related disease, ulcers, aggression, and other negative behavioral changes. I know of one veterinary research group investigating GAS involvement in the formation of adrenal gland tumors (they are certain it is a risk factor, and suspect it may be a triggering event). Mink may be a part of the answer.

Mink tend to display stereotypic behaviors, such as self-mutilation, excessive grooming, and pacing, which are thought to result in a hormonal "reward" within the brain. Ferrets, having been domesticated for 2500 years, have probably had most stereotypic behaviors bred out, so they display symptoms of GAS instead. Interestingly, some animal behaviorists feel that while stereotypical behaviors should not be allowed to develop, they argue

the actions are a successful coping mechanism to combat stress. The killer, they argue, is GAS, which inhibits the immune system (the immune system doesn't JUST combat disease, but the initiation of cancers also), stresses organ systems, and generally reduces the lifespan of the animal.

Enrichment helps to solve at least part of the problem. Enrichment reduces stress in a number of ways, it increases bonding between the ferret and the owner, and it can provide the ferret owner with hours of pleasure knowing their ferrets are absolutely enjoying themselves. In my next posts, I shall address specific enrichments, and how they can combat problems of caging and other problems, such as overcrowding and lack of security.

\* Reprinted from the Ferret Mailing List, to be continued in the next issue of the Cascade Summit.

### CFN Ferret Sponsors

Thanks to the following individuals that provided financial support for shelter ferrets:

**Anna Wellborn & Mike Eadie** (Possum)  
**Marjorie Hageman** (Amaretto)  
**Ann Lynde** (Loki)  
**Clyde Prince** (Hillary, Zima)  
**Eleanor Suppe** (Natasha)  
**Brent & Erin Forgeron** (Eowyn & Midge)  
**Tamie Alcock** (Eliza)  
**Jerry Zimm & Jody Austin** (Gizmo)  
**Peter Muhlhauser** (Petree)  
**Rebecca Bogarad** (Willow, & Spunky)  
**Tamara Schryver** (Zinc & Twizler)  
**Jennifer Sargent** (Zima & Hattie)  
**Autumn Debus** (Mr. Green Jeans)  
**Arlene Nelson** (Ricochet)  
**Laura Satterfield** (Zella, Lindsey)  
**Kelly & Robert Dowell** (Io)  
**Erin Bishop & Lavon Grahn** (Zest)  
**Kathleen Pallari** (Eowyn, Barnaby & Bart)  
**Nathan Buczacz** (Mr. Green Jeans)  
**Kimberly Brown** (Bobbie Sue)



## Ferret Stories

Each quarter we'll relate the tale of a ferret or two who overcame adversity to find a better life. We would also love to have updates on ferrets once they have found a home, so send us photos and stories!

### Zest's Story

Zest has been waiting 4.5 years to find a new home. Zest arrived with her cagemate in September of 2000. She was about a year old and very feisty. She had been purchased from Scamp's as an unspayed kit, but had been altered and descented before arriving at CFN. Lots of people said they wanted to adopt Zest or her cagemate Zinc, but no one wanted to adopt both of them. Neither of them liked other ferrets so we did not want to see them split up. As time went by, Zest's cage mate acquired more and more health problems making it less and less likely that anyone would ever adopt the pair. Just recently her cagemate passed away. It is sad she is by herself now, but I think she has a much better chance of finding a forever home now. She is adorable and has a super personality. She hasn't had any health issues yet, except for a problem with one of her upper canines which had to be removed a couple of years ago. Zest is pleasingly plump and has a luxuriant coat of bunny-soft fur that everyone loves to touch. People can't help themselves when they see her they have to hold her and exclaim over her extreme cuteness. Zest is willing to be held and cuddled once she has burned off her play energy; recently, she spent an hour or so being held in the lap of a CFN visitor. If you think you could give Zest her long sought after forever home, please contact CFN about adopting her.



~Zest~

### Pluto's Story

Pluto needs a sponsor. Pluto arrived in November of 2002 when he was 3 years of age. He arrived with two other ferrets and we found out he used to live with a group of other ferrets that had arrived at the shelter earlier. They were reunited and he continues to live with two of his former cage mates. Since then, the others have all been adopted or have passed away. Pluto arrived with cataracts, but that has never stopped him from being a very playful happy guy. He has been to many public events at pet stores and pet fairs because he is so gentle and good with people. He loves hauling around stuffed animals and can get quite silly despite his large size. During a vet visit earlier this year, Pluto



~Pluto~

was diagnosed with a heart murmur and was started on medication to help his heart work better. We also found that Pluto was in serious need of a dentistry. In April his teeth were cleaned and he had a broken canine removed along with three mast cell tumors. In the last few weeks Pluto has started to cough frequently, so he has been started on a medication to help eliminate fluid build up in his lungs from heart disease. He will need to be on both medications for the rest of his life. Sponsorship would help pay for this medication. If you sponsor Pluto, in return you will receive a photo and updates on how he is doing. If you are interested in sponsoring Pluto, send the CFN a note and a check for \$60 or go to the CFN web page and follow the instructions to sponsor him online. Like all contributions to the CFN, your sponsorship is tax deductible!





## Many Thanks

The Cascade Ferret Network has been helped by many people, all of whom deserve a big Thank You from the CFN and all of the ferrets who are currently in the network or have passed through. If you've made a donation, volunteered time or services, adopted a ferret, or helped out in any other way, you have made a positive difference to the quality of life for all ferrets past and present in the network.

Special thanks go to our primary service providers who give the CFN discounts or free services: Dr. Mark Burgess, Dr. Katrina Ramsell, and Dr. Sara Wilcox at Southwest Animal Hospital, Dr. Meg Frey at Bob Groves' Lake Oswego Veterinary Clinic and Forest Heights Veterinary Clinic, Joe Pruett at Q7 (a networking consultant) who setup and hosts our Internet domain [joey@q7.com](mailto:joey@q7.com), Performance Foods, Inc., The Ferret Company, Hyper-fur, Path Valley Farm, and The Ferret Store.

The following people have been very generous to the CFN with their time or money during the first quarter of 2005, which meant so much to the success of the CFN. Thanks to Dr. Katrina Ramsell, Jennifer Fresta†, Julie Tench, Jeanne Brumbaugh†, Keeli Adams, Carla Almaraz†, Debi Breitenbauch†, Lavon Grahn†, Katie Hanson†, Karen Brecknock†, Karen Kloeck†, Sally Filler, Heather Christy & her sister Adrienne, Marla Blaney†, Rebecca Bogorad†, Julia Steig, Katie & Heather Daniels, Jennifer Bachman, Jeff Mulcaster, Stan Boyes, Ann Lynde, Anna Wellborn & Mike Eadie, Barry Dick, Arlene Nelson, Chris & Amy Christian†, Robin & Flavia Williams, Hannah Bowen, Michalyn Steiner, Nancy White, Teresa Wickliffe, Kelli Carlson, Kelly Dowell & her two daughters Jessica & Latisha, and Lisa & Graham Verdon.

† - CFN foster parents

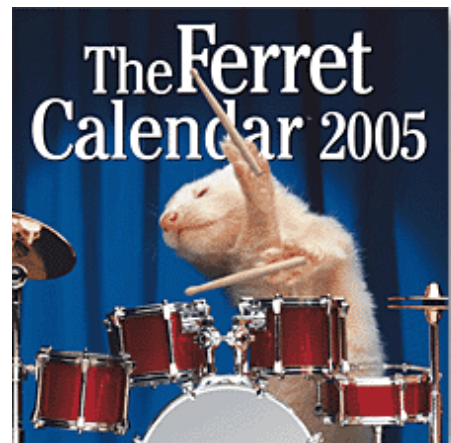
## Cascade Ferret Network

### \*Wish List\*

- \*Copy paper
- \*Postage Stamps
- \*Toilet tissue
- \*Card Stock
- \*Easels
- \*Scent-free laundry detergent
- \*Clorox Wipes (box refills, lemon preferred)
- \*Manila envelopes
- \*Polar Fleece (for bedding)
- \*Storage space (off site)
- \*Hand soap refills
- \*Hand sanitizer refills
- \*Bleach

## The Ferret Calendar 2005

This is the first time CFN has still had unsold calendars this late in the year. Are you sure you can't use just one more calendar to have at work or in another room of your home? The remaining calendars are being sold at our cost, \$7. Please help us get these calendars into homes before the 2006 issue comes out!



## Upcoming Events

PETsMART  
Adoption Sessions  
July 16<sup>th</sup> & August 20<sup>th</sup>

CFN is planning on being at the Vancouver PETsMART from 1pm-4pm on the 3rd Saturday of each month. We need volunteers to answer questions and handle shelter ferrets.

Cascade Ferret Network  
PO Box 14884  
Portland, OR 97293-0884

## Cascade Ferret Network Fund Raiser



### "Cleaning out our Hidey-hole" Moving Sale & Open House

Central Facility (3025 NE Hoyt)

June 17th (2pm-5pm), 18th (12pm-4pm), 19th (12pm-4pm)

503-231-0887, [www.cascadeferret.org](http://www.cascadeferret.org)

#### Moving Sale

- \* Household furnishings and used items
- \* Lots of used ferret supplies and equipment (water bottles, food dishes, bedding, cages, toys, carry bags, carriers, litterpans, leashes, harnesses)
- \* Free stuff

#### Open House

- \* Raffle of donated ferret items
- \* Try your luck with the *Weasel Wheel of Fortune*
- \* Health checks by expert vets (\$5)
- \* Melatonin implants available (\$30)
- \* New ferret items (handmade bedding, 2005 calendar, treats, tubes, CFN T-shirts, buttons, etc.)