



# CASCADE SUMMIT

NEWS FROM CASCADE FERRET NETWORK VOL. 9 ISSUE 2 / SPRING, 2008

## 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 leave a message for CFN at (503) 231-0887 or email us at [www.cascadeferret.org](http://www.cascadeferret.org)



### Ferrets

During January, February and March of 2008, the Cascade Ferret Network took in 9 ferrets and found new homes for 14 ferrets, 4 of which were through referrals. One shelter ferret, Longfellow, died during the first three months of 2008. Longfellow's story was heart-breaking. He arrived as skin and bones after being found abandoned in an apartment. We soon found his state wasn't entirely due to being abandoned; he had a huge tumor inside his throat preventing him from eating. The growth was surgically removed as soon as possible, but it was found to be a very aggressive, malignant cancer and was not entirely removed. Longfellow had a few weeks of happiness after recovering from his

surgery. He gained weight and was able to enjoy playing with other ferrets and humans like a regular ferret before the tumor interfered again. Eventually, the tumor returned and Longfellow had difficulty swallowing which again led to weight loss. When the struggle became too much, we helped him cross the rainbow bridge.

Veterinary care for January, February and March of 2008 consisted of 21 Lupron injections to alleviate symptoms of adrenal disease. There are currently over 50 ferrets in foster care in the network

### Financial

Income from donations, the sale of merchandise, and fees from adoptions help to pay for the veterinary costs of the Cascade Ferret Network. The CFN relies on 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 2008.

#### 1st quarter 2008

#### Revenue

Adoption fees.....	\$325
Donations (cash).....	\$4,514
<u>Merchandise sales (gross).....</u>	<u>\$492</u>
TOTAL.....	\$5,331

#### Expenses

Vet/medical costs.....	\$1,217
<u>Other.....</u>	<u>\$469</u>
TOTAL.....	\$1,686

## 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 volunteers.

One of the most rewarding ways to help 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 they would their own pets. The CFN is responsible for the ferret's medical costs and will provide a cage as well as other accessories. Some foster ferrets are short-term residents who may need a little extra time to recover from surgery or who are waiting to receive their vaccinations before they are placed into a permanent home. Other foster ferrets need extra attention to help them recover from a neglectful or abusive home -- 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 volunteer. There are lots and lots of opportunities for those who would like to contribute their time. Whether it's helping out at public events or assisting the organization to help it run more smoothly, ALL CFN volunteers are greatly needed and very much appreciated!

### Volunteer Acknowledgement

The following people have been very generous to the CFN with their time during the 1st quarter of 2008:

*Kim Reynolds* is a new foster parent that jumped into the fray and volunteered to help staple, fold, seal, label and stamp the over 300 copies of the winter issue of the newsletter. She even came over to pick them up and drop them off again.

Several people have been extremely helpful to a CFN foster home. *Jamie Stamberger, Jeni & James Lee, Lisa McLennan, and Jay Pinka* have all provided *Lavon Grabn* with much appreciated assistance in caring for her many foster ferrets, taking photos of the ferrets and helping her with computer issues.

*April Gallaty* provides quarterly creative input for the newsletter and *Lisa Verdon* spends hours formatting the newsletter. *Amy Daniewicz* maintains the CFN scrapbook.



In addition to fostering and helping at special events, the following people regularly volunteer their time to help CFN by serving on its board of directors, storing CFN equipment and supplies, transporting supplies and ferrets, interviewing potential new foster homes for shelter ferrets, interviewing those wanting to adopt ferrets, providing veterinary services, answering emails and phone messages, dealing with CFN accounting tasks, stapling, folding, labeling and stamping the newsletter, and keeping our web page updated: *Kelli Carlson, Dr. Katrina Ramsell, Jennifer Fresta, Julie Tench, Lavon Grahn, Rebecca Bogorad, Brad Holt, Leonard Bottleman and Elayne Barclay.*

**Donations**

The Cascade Ferret Network is a 501(C)(3) non-profit corporation, so your donations may be tax deductible.

**Donation Acknowledgement**

CFN is grateful to all the individuals who donated equipment or supplies during January, February and March of 2008. *Matthew Holms* donated ferret supplies, *Lisa & Steve McLennan* donate many bags of ferret food on a regular basis along with special ferret treats: N-bones (if you haven't tried these with your ferret, CFN will have some for sale at Ferret Awareness Day). *Jeanie Kinnick* sent CFN a box all the way from La Grande, OR filled with ferret treats and supplies left over after her ferret's passing.

The only item appreciated as much as the donation of time or supplies is the donation of money! CFN is grateful to the following people for donating money to CFN during the first quarter of 2008: *Dee Ann Holmes, Janet Eirjavev, Laura Satterfield, Arlene Nelson, Stacy & Kaile Riser, Lars Christiansen, Kate Schroeder, Michelle Gregory, Julie Andrecia and Valerie Wilkins.*

Two people made matching donations through their employer.

*Elizabeth Paul and Keeli Adams-Rutherford* donated with a matching donation from *PGE.*

**Event Reports**

**Northwest Pet & Companion Fair  
April 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>  
Expo Center**

This is the 7th year in a row that CFN has had a booth at this event. It is always a memorable occasion, but this year it was especially so. The following report is from *Lavon Grahn*, an indispensable foster parent and volunteer for CFN.



~Lavon Grahn and Lily~

One of our ferret foster moms, *Kelli Carlson*, was an unsung hero at the event when she responded to an urgent voice coming over the loudspeaker, "MEDIC! MEDIC NEEDED AT THE BACK DOOR BY THE FOODSTAND!" Several of us who were leaving together at that time paused, and I asked Kelli if it was a joke. But Kelli was already twenty feet away, going at a dead run toward the door, the big carrier full of ferrets still in her grasp. Kelli is a nurse in intensive care and she knew it was a serious plea for help! She was one of the first to go to the aid of a young person lying unconscious on the ground, in a seizure. Kelli stayed with him until the paramedics arrived, keeping untrained people

from innocently doing more harm than good in an effort to help.

She seemed oblivious to the crowd that had gathered around, concentrating on the person who needed her help; I, for one, was very impressed with the way she calmly handled the situation. As we headed back to the car again, I told her so, and she shrugged it off as though she had done nothing more than say hello to a stranger. That's our Kelli!!

The rest of the PET FAIR was good this year. Our booth was in a great spot, so a lot of people stopped to chat and pet the ferrets. Several people were interested in adopting; a good reason why we are there. It seemed there were fewer wrinkled noses and people saying 'ew, they stink!' That's a nice change from a few years ago. We saw some people who have adopted from us and got updates on how their kidlets are doing. I'm hoping next year is even better!



~Quincy, Chunky Monkey & Roxanne~

Many thanks to the volunteers that helped staff the CFN booth at the event: *Lavon Grahn, Dr. Katrina Ramsell, Julie Tench, Kelli Carlson, Thomas Gerde, Cherrie Williams, Jennifer Fresta, Lisa McLennan, Elayne Barclay and Donald & Cristina Murray.*

Special thanks to the patient ferrets that put up with being mauled by the public for hours: *Quincy, Twerp, Roxanne, Lily, Elly Mae, Chunky Monkey, Mathilde, Mister, Minnie Me, McLovin and Timber.*





## Good Ferret-keeping

### BOARDING YOUR FERRET

*Tips for making it easier on you,  
your pet and the babysitter*

By Sandy Streit

For the past few years, I've been boarding ferrets in my home. I don't like that word--"boarding". It makes me think of a dog kennel with cold, hard cement floors. I think of myself as a ferret babysitter. The ferrets who stay with me are guests. I treat them as if they were my own. Their needs come first. Reducing their stress is important. If they are happy and comfortable, then you will return to a healthy pet. So why don't I babysit in other people's homes? Because when I am at my home, I know the lay of the land. I have ferret-proofed my home to the best of my abilities. I know where all the hidey holes are and in case of an emergency, I know where the closest emergency vet is and how to get there. I have Caro syrup in my pantry and cans of A/D on hand, just in case. If I am in an unfamiliar location, I could lose time trying to find things. The majority of my guests have no problems. All of my emergencies have been with older ferrets who have undiagnosed insulinomas. The excitement of a new place, or stress of being someplace strange can be just enough to lower their blood sugar to cause symptoms. My primary worry is with older guests and their blood sugar levels.

***How can you, the owner, make your ferret's stay more safe and comfortable...***

#### **BEFORE DROP OFF:**

**\*\*If your ferret is more than 4 or 5 years old and hasn't seen the vet in a year, it's a very good idea to have your vet check him/her. Catching low blood sugar issues (insulinoma) or other problems beforehand can help prevent a medical emergency**

while you are away. If an emergency happens at night or during a weekend, emergency vet care will cost a bundle. Save yourself some money in the long run and get a check-up.

**\*\*Be sure your ferret is up-to-date on vaccinations.**

**\*\*Discuss any health issues with your babysitter in advance. For example, if your pet has insulinomas, supplemental feedings can be given to minimize the risk of a drop in blood sugar.**

**\*\*Confirm in advance, that the babysitter is willing and able to give your pet his/her medicines. For example, some babysitters will do injections, while others will not.**

**\*\*If your ferret is elderly or has a health issue, consider notifying your vet before you leave, that in case of illness or emergency, the babysitter will be the one bringing your ferret in. A preauthorization with your vet can save time and avoid confusion.**

**\*\*If your pet has medications and you are concerned the babysitter will need to get more meds, notify your compounder (or vet) that the babysitter may be picking up them up.**

**\*\*Ask your babysitter if you need to bring a cage. For example, I have cages and my guests have free range, but if your pet has special needs, you may wish to bring their cage.**

#### **AT DROP OFF:**

**\*\*Bring their medicines. This is critical. Have enough to last the stay, or verify in advance to have your ferret babysitter pick up additional meds. I've had situations where I've run out of medicine, and had to contact the vet and the compounder.**

**\*\*Bring their food. Ferrets are very fussy about their diet. Bring enough food to cover the length of their stay, or arrange in advance to have your babysitter purchase the correct food.**

**\*\*Bring some bedding from home, something that will provide a**

comfortable and familiar smell.

**\*\*Bring litter for the poopie box. Some ferrets are fussy about the contents of their box.**

**\*\*If your ferret has a passion for a particular toy, bring it; don't forget to take it home when your stay is over, or your ferret will pine for it!**

**\*\*Inform your babysitter of any quirky behaviors your ferrets have. For example, Zoe, one of my guests, will take the phone off the hook and try to make phone calls. Knowing this, I can take the phone out of the room before she arrives.**

**\*\*Make sure your babysitter has the name and contact info for your vet.**

**\*\*Make sure your babysitter has some way to contact you in case of emergency.**

**\*\*Make sure you have a way to contact the babysitter, in case your travel plans change. Airport delays have become very common.**

**If you are interested in having Sandy care for your ferrets while you are away, contact her at 503.293.4175, she is located in SW Portland. Please keep in mind that spaces are limited and tend to fill up quickly during the summer months and holidays.**

## CFN in the Spotlight



CFN was contacted in May by *Kim Singer*, a reporter with KATU. She was interested in doing a feature story on ferrets as pets. The segment aired on May 23rd starring *Kelli Carlson* and her pet ferrets, *Chunky Monkey, Twerp and Quincy* along with CFN foster ferrets, *Lily, Elly Mae and Roxanne*. You can view the segment by going to <http://www.better.tv/bettertv> and clicking on "pets" and then "ferrets as pets".



## Quality of Life

### Enrichment: Specific Enrichments: Vision

By Bob Church\*

Because of the timing of eye growth in newborn kits, vision in the ferret has been extensively studied as part of ongoing research into the development of the eye and associated structures. When discussing odor in ferrets, I mentioned it was a very important sensory system, so much so that it rivals vision in primates. That is NOT to imply vision is unimportant; it is just not as dominant as it is in some other animals; sort of like the sense of smell--compared to vision--is in humans. For example, humans identify each other visually, but ferrets use scent for personal recognition (SOME recent research suggests the ferret's cryptic facial markings may come into play for personal identification of litter partners, but it remains an unsupported hypothesis). Nonetheless, visual clues are VERY important to ferrets; the open play mouth, the weasel war dance, and the play bounce are all VISUAL clues to let other ferrets know aggression is meant for play, not injury. Understanding the differences in vision between humans and ferrets can go a long way towards building an effective enrichment program.

One observation that always struck me as odd was the way my ferrets would react if I quietly entered their room. The moment my motion was detected, most of the ferrets would freeze and quietly stare in my direction, but some would take off like a bat out of hell. However, if I used my VOICE to announce my arrival, my sudden visual appearance

rarely caused such reactions. It was clear my ferrets recognized my voice, but why didn't they recognize me? The answer to that question lies in the comparative structure of the human and ferret eye.

Both humans and ferrets have eyes that are structurally similar, but there are some important differences. In both human and ferret eyes, the retinas use rods and cones to detect light. Rods are 10,000 times more sensitive to light than cones, but only see in shades of gray and do a mediocre job of recording fine details. Cones sense color, depending on the number and types of pigments they contain, and produce sharp vision. Having cones in your retina does NOT mean you see in color--they may be present only for recording sharp images in good light. In humans, the cones in the retina have three pigments, giving us trichromatic vision. Ferrets have only two pigments in their cones, producing dichromatic vision. Like horses, ferrets are green-yellow colorblind, seeing only reds and some of the higher-end blues. Humans have round pupils, but ferrets have pupils that constrict to a horizontal slit. A slit allows the pupil to open to large diameters compared to the size of the eye (cats have similar pupils, only they open vertically). The horizontal orientation of the ferret pupil improves visual acuity within the horizontal plane. Humans, well, maybe not me, but the average human has 20/20 vision; ferrets are similar to cats, having vision in the range of 20/100 to 20/200 (depending on the researcher). Unlike \*MY\* left eye's 20/200 vision, objects beyond the ferret's range of visual acuity are not blurry; they are just featureless, lacking detail (why my face is hard to recognize when I suddenly appear). Humans have a field of vision that encompasses 180 degrees of

coverage, like that of an orange cut in half, while ferrets, like dogs, have a field of vision coverage ranging from 240 to 300 degrees (again, depending on the report). Humans have 140 degrees of coverage within their binocular field of vision, but ferrets only have between 90 and 110 degrees of binocular coverage. One other difference is that humans can see objects as they enter the mouth, but ferrets cannot; their comparatively massive nose blocks that angle of view.

Complicating the issue are albino ferrets; they have enough differences in their visual system compared to sables that it is sort of like describing the eyesight of another species. Albino ferrets have diminished color vision, less visual acuity, and several "wiring" defects making their vision inferior to their pigmented peers.

There is one other factor that recent research has illuminated; the effect of the visual environment on the development of the ferret retina. There is a tremendous amount of evidence that has shown that what the kits SEE can influence the orientation and placement of the ganglia (and associated cones and rods) within the structure of the retina. This is comparative new research, but it does give rise to questions regarding eye development in kits housed in visually sterile environments, such as those experienced by most of the ferrets in the Americas. It is possible that reported visual differences between ferrets and polecats are environmentally caused, rather than genetic in nature.

The bottom line is ferrets experience a different sort of vision than that seen in humans, so our visual enrichments need to reflect those differences. Some tips to learn BEFORE trying visual enrichments can be of help.



1. Since the cones in the ferret's eye require much more light than the rods, try increasing illumination to increase visual acuity.
2. Color is far less important than contrast; try to place darks next to lights, rather than medium greens next to medium blues.
3. Ferrets may not be able to see a mouse on the floor if it is not moving, but they can sure detect it if it runs away; try using movement in the enrichment.
4. Ferrets see better along the horizontal plane rather than the vertical one, so bring the enrichments down to their eye level.
5. Ferrets see sharpest between 4 inches to a foot in front of their nose, so bring the enrichments closer.

1. **Graphic Balls:** Buy a large plastic ball of a light color. I like the cheap 18 inch diameter plastic balls sold at Wal-Mart for 3-4 bucks. Using black magic markers, draw SIMPLE graphic designs on the ball, such as lines, squares, triangles, circles, etc., so that about half of the ball is covered with contrasting designs. Just place the ball on the floor and watch the ferrets show more than simple interest. For heightened enrichment, combine vision with odor, and rub the ball with different odors in different locations.

2. **Ferret Fishing:** Take one cheap, white linen hand towel, and cover it with black squares drawn with a magic marker. Tie a knot in one corner of the towel, then tie a string under the knot so it will not slip off when the towel is tugged. Tie the other end of the string to a wooden dowel or a broomstick, and go "Fishin' Fer Ferts." The linen hand towel has a fine mesh that helps prevent snagging claws, and is preferable over terrycloth.

3. **Hittin' The Sack:** Use black magic marker to draw graphic designs on an old pillowcase (I get them at thrift

stores). I put a couple ferrets on the bed, then flap the pillowcase over their heads, drop it on them, play tug of war, and even put them in the case and drag it around.

4. **Pong, The Game:** I use four-dozen ping-pong balls, half of which are painted black, poured into a plastic tub. Need I say more?

5. **The Weasel In the Sky Keeps On Turning:** Most builder-supply stores, such as Home Depot or Lowes, have fairly cheap unfinished plywood or pine circular tabletops. I use one that is 2.5 feet in diameter that I have painted with white and black graphic designs. Drill four holes equidistant along the edge and attach four eyebolts. Tie nylon line to each eyebolt, and then tie the four lines together at the other end with an overhand knot. Attach a hook to the knot and hang the table. Your ferrets will know what to do.

6. **Feed My Ferretstein:** Take one cheap oven mitt, attach eyes and mouth details that graphically contrast with the mitt, and play "Kill the Monster." The wrestling is tactile enrichment, the play is bonding enrichment, and the graphic eyes are visual enrichment. Your fingers are protected from hard bites and you enrich the life of your ferret; you can't lose and neither can the ferret.

\*Reprinted from the Ferret Mailing List July 2003

## HELP CFN AND SAVE A TREE!

The *Cascade Summit* newsletter is being offered in an electronic format (Adobe Acrobat) with color photos. If you are willing to give up getting a hard copy in the mail, please let us know and give us your email address. The CFN will keep all email addresses private.



### CFN Foster Parents

Thanks to the following individuals that provided foster care during January, February and March 2008.

In addition to providing foster care, many of the foster parents listed below also help CFN by paying for the prescription diets and medications of their foster ferrets.

**Kelli Carlson:** Roxanne, Lily and Elly Mae

**Debi Currier:** Oscar & Calvin, Dookie & Yuki, Wasabi & Sushi, Loki & Bowen, Sedona, Nevada, & Reno

**Jennifer Fresta:** Timber & Bambino

**Katie Hanson:** Barnaby & Kit  
**Carla Almaraz:** Tattletail, Jules & Merlin

**Lavon Grahn:** Domino & Balboa, Buffy, Sterling, Hamlet, Chance, Frannie & Frazier

**Rebecca Bogorad:** Violet & Daffodil

**Marilou Chamberlain:** Penny, Sheba & Amber

**Elayne Barclay:** Annie, Minnie Me & Mister, Mathilde, Kookaburra & Dingo, Seasons & Banzai, Longfellow & Bambino

**Cherrie Williams:** Libby, Betty Boop, & Lola

**Tish Beltz:** Eloise

**Marie Lockwood:** Bo & Buttons

**Amy White:** Ajax & Katie, Harley & Dylan



### Albino Abby



#### A Raisin for Your Thoughts With Albino Abby

Dear Albino Abby,

I've noticed that not only have I blown my beautiful coat, but the day seems to be longer and it's making it very hard to find quality "dark time". What's going on? How can I get the minimum 10 hours of complete darkness a day I need to stay as healthy as possible?

Sleepless in Portland –

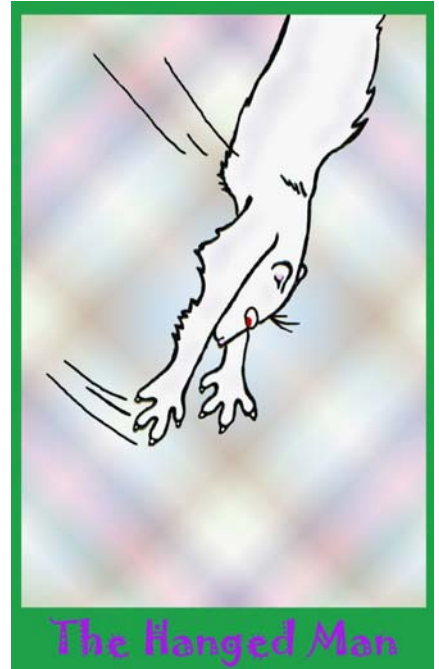
Dear SIP,

Summer is upon us! It still may be a little cool outside, but overall the season is still lengthening the days and making things warmer. Your coat will grow back, so don't worry about that. However, the darkness thing is distressing. Be sure that your human knows that since you need lots of darkness, they should make sure that you have plenty of dark hidey holes or darkened sleepy sacks or comfy dark spots somewhere for you to get to everyday. Then, when you are up and about, you can dazzle your humans with that spunky, playful attitude they should have when they wake up!

- Albino Abby

Are you a ferret with problems? You don't know how to handle your human's insistence that you can't have all the Ferretone you want? Are you having trouble deciding who should sleep on the bottom of the pile? Write in and ask! I'll give you the best ferrety advice around. E-mail your questions and stories to: [albinoabby@gmail.com](mailto:albinoabby@gmail.com). Be sure to include "Ask Albino Abby" in the subject line!

### Just for Fun



#### FERRET TAROT

YOUR CARD: The Hanged Man

This card shows us that if we are not careful, we can hang ourselves with the proverbial "rope". In our case however, we can hang ourselves in ways our humans never imagined! It's time for the windows to be open again for the nice weather and our natural curiosity is going to make us go for those screen doors & windows. Be careful little one, for if you go out that screen, coming back will be very hard indeed. There are other dangers lurking around that window too; you could hang a nail on the screen or get caught up in window blind strings. Have a wonderful summer, but do it carefully.

View the entire Ferret Tarot set at: [http://www.falconsmew.com/product4\\_1.html](http://www.falconsmew.com/product4_1.html)

#### CFN Ferret Sponsors

Thanks to the following individuals that provided financial support by sponsoring a special needs shelter ferret during the 1st quarter of 2008:

- Anna Wellborn & Mike Eadie (Annie & Sterling)
- Clyde Prince (Sterling)
- Peter Muhlhausler (Longfellow)
- Laura Satterfield (Mister)
- Fran Harris (Tattletail)
- Dee Ann Holmes (Lance)
- Ann Lynde (Mister & Jules)
- Julie Andrecia (Roxanne, Mister, Lance & Jules)
- Aron & Barbara Segal (Lance)
- Crystal Johnston (Daffodil & Violet)
- Tika Wolff (Cyrano)
- Adrien Pettit (Mathilde)
- Beth Felix (Mister)
- Kat Schroeder (Minnie Me & Mister)
- Lisa & Steve McLennan (Lance & Jules)
- Tom & Christy Claassen (Eloise),
- Marie Lockwood (Sterling)
- Stacy & Kaile Riser (Liberty)
- Lars Christianson (Elly Mae)

Thanks to the following individuals that provided financial support by being an Incoming Sponsor (paying for ADV testing and vaccines) during the 1st quarter of 2008:

- Laura Satterfield (Banzai)
- Crystal Johnston (Hamlet)



## Health Matters

### Your Compounding Pharmacist can help....

Many Veterinarians and Pet Owners have learned that compounding pharmacists can be a great resource in providing medications and dosage forms that otherwise would not be available for veterinary patients. A compounding pharmacist can actually make a prescription from the raw materials, whether it is a small capsule for a Dachshund or a larger capsule for a Doberman, a transdermal gel for a hyperthyroid cat, an eye drop, no longer made by a manufacturer, for a viral infection, or a flavored suspension that a ferret willingly accepts. These are just a few examples of the many things a compounding pharmacist can do for the veterinary community.

Did you know that a number of bitter medications could be prepared in flavored liquids in such a way that the bitterness is totally masked? Metronidazole and Chloramphenicol, both antibiotics, and Prednisolone, an anti-inflammatory drug, are all very bitter

and used frequently in treating ferrets. By using our knowledge of chemistry, we measure an equivalent amount of the most palatable form of the drug (the benzoate, palmitate, or acetate "salt" form, for example) and mix with the appropriate amount of sweeteners, flavors, and bitter reduction agents. In many cases we create suspensions we refer to as "bitter-free"; they taste so good one might not know they are medicines! I have found that bubblegum, malt, banana and strawberry seem to be the favorite flavors of my ferret patients.

Ask your veterinarian how your local compounding pharmacist might be able to assist you. Thanks for reading!

Tom Eilers, R.Ph  
Pharmacist, Northwest Compounders

### Meet Tom Eilers...

Tom is a true blue Oregonian. He grew up in Portland, one of five kids, and went to Central Catholic High School. He then spent six years at Oregon State University, graduating with a Pharmacy degree. Tom has been a licensed pharmacist since 1976, but became a

"compounding pharmacist" when he joined Russ Perkins at University Compounders in 2001. Tom founded Northwest Compounders in the fall of 2005. The business is located in Tigard, but has a free delivery service. Tom says what he enjoys most about being a compounding pharmacist is the challenge, "I am frequently learning new things. It requires many pharmaceutical calculations which I like, and feel I have a talent in this area. There is great variety in our work, every day is different from the next. And finally, I feel appreciated... many customers and prescribers frequently thank us for our efforts and for doing what we do. This was really not the case in retail pharmacy, where it seemed that fast was never fast enough and the complaint of, "why did my insurance co-payment go up?", was heard 5 or 10 times a day (which is not something we pharmacists had anything to do with)."

Tom is married and lives with two rescue cats, Moose and Rocky. They have a son, Luke, who works as a technician at Northwest Compounders in the summer and is a student at OSU the rest of the year.



## Our Pharmacy works with your Veterinarian to make customized medications for your pet.



Tom Eilers,  
Compounding Pharmacist

**Helping Your Pets Get The Medicine They Need**

### Common Flavors

### Used in Veterinary Prescriptions:

Alfalfa, Apple, Banana, Beef, Berry, Bubblegum, Chicken, Fish, Liver, Malt, Tuna Oil, Tutti Frutti, Watermelon

### Dosage Forms Available:

Capsules, Eye & Ear Drops, Flavored Liquids, Powders, Soft Chewables, Topical Creams and Ointments, Transdermal Gels



Pay Less For Quality Veterinary Compounding

**FREE MAIL SERVICE 503-352-3811** Fax: 503-624-0591

**Northwest Compounders** COUPON

**\$10 OFF** on New or Transferred Prescriptions of \$30.00 or more.

Call Tom at 503-352-3811 mention this coupon.  
Coupon Expires 12-31-08





# 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 receive updates on ferrets once they have found a home, so send us photos and stories!

## Seasons' Story



~Seasons~

Seasons really needs a forever home, hopefully one with other ferrets for her to snuggle with. Seasons and a companion arrived in January of this year along with another ferret after being rescued from a very unfortunate situation by *Haven Humane* in Redding, CA. They were confiscated from their owner who was charged with animal cruelty. The two were found very thin and in poor shape since they had been without water or food for about a week or so. Seasons' cage companion recovered completely and seemed unfazed by his ordeal and has since been adopted into a new home. Since the two never spent much time together and Seasons didn't seem to gain any solace from her cage mate's presence, we felt it would be OK to let him be adopted. Seasons on the other hand, maybe because she was older, has been having a hard time returning to the happy playful ferret we expected to see once she settled in to her new foster home. Seasons is still very skittish and scuttles away to hide with the

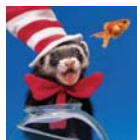
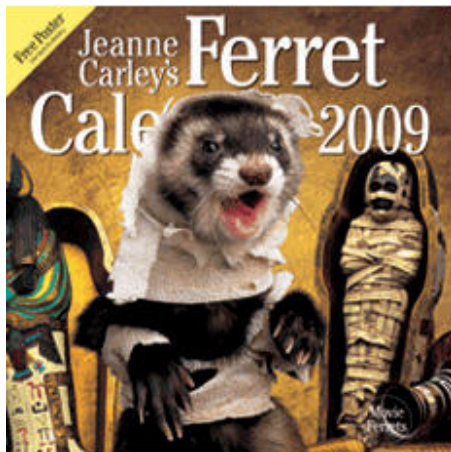
slightest noise or sudden movement. However, she will solicit interaction with humans as well as play enthusiastically with the other ferrets when she feels secure. Seasons needs an understanding human to lavish her with attention so she can realize her full potential as a ferret. If you think you can provide Seasons with a permanent loving home, please contact CFN at (503) 231-0887 or email us at [ferret@cascadeferret.org](mailto:ferret@cascadeferret.org).

## Grady's Story

Grady could use some "special needs" sponsors. He was observed wondering outdoors by a concerned elderly couple. After a few weeks, they contacted officer *Lori Shannon* at *Bonnie Hayes Small Animal Shelter*. Lori was able to personally transfer Grady into the care of CFN. Grady was skinny and scruffy with thin fur indicative of adrenal disease. He is currently in a foster home settling in and will soon be scheduled for surgery to remove his left adrenal gland. Grady's foster parent says after some initial squabbling, he now gets along with her male ferret and loves her dogs and is fine with the cats. Grady likes to steal the dog's food, he also enjoys riding on shoulders to get to see new territory and likes to be scratched under the chin. His favorite time to cuddle and be petted is when he is waking up. Sponsorships would help pay for Grady's medical bills. If you become a "special needs" sponsor for Grady, in return you will receive photos and quarterly updates on how he is doing for a year. If you are interested in becoming one of Grady's "special needs" sponsors, send CFN a note and a check for \$60 or go to the CFN web page ([www.cascadeferret.org](http://www.cascadeferret.org)) and follow the instructions to sponsor him online. Like all contributions to CFN, your sponsorship is tax deductible!



~Grady~



### Jeanne Carley's Ferret Calendar 2009 "Movie Ferrets"



Once again, the Cascade Ferret Network will be selling Jeanne Carley's calendar to raise money for the organization. This year's themed "Movie Ferrets" calendar delivers what it promises; from *The Cat in the Hat* to *The Wizard of Oz*, it's an amazing collection that will capture your heart, make you smile and leave you wanting more! CFN will have Jeanne Carley's calendars for sale at the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Ferret Awareness Day on July 26<sup>th</sup>.





**“Ferret out a Friend”**  
 at  
**CASCADE FERRET NETWORK’S**  
**7th Annual Ferret Awareness Day**  
 July 26th from 1-5 PM ▶ Free Admission!

Oregon Humane Society  
 1067 NE Columbia Blvd  
 Portland, OR

**Our Theme Is:**

**INDIANA JONES  
 MEETS THE FERRET KINGDOM**

**ADVENTUROUS ACTIVITIES  
 AWAIT YOU:**

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- ✦ **Raffle**
- ✦ **Free vet exams**
- ✦ **New and used ferret supplies**
- ✦ **Win Prizes**
- ✦ **Themed photo op for you and your pet**
- ✦ **Auction of unique ferret items**
- ✦ **Educational materials**
- ✦ **Shelter ferret play pen**

**Come join us for CFN’s (tax exempt 501c3) main fund raiser.**

**For more information:  
[www.cascadeferret.org](http://www.cascadeferret.org)  
[ferret@cascadeferret.org](mailto:ferret@cascadeferret.org)  
 503.231.0887 (voice mail)**

**Please note: Healthy ferrets in carriers outfitted with food, water and bedding are welcome to attend. Please make sure your ferrets have been fully vaccinated to protect them against distemper, and are not contagious for any diseases. For your ferrets' safety we encourage you to keep your pets isolated from other people's ferrets -- all activities and events have been selected and arranged to minimize cross contamination.**

**\*NOTE\***  
Date change for FADI  
NOW JULY 26th

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

## Northwest Exotic Pet Vet

*Personalized High Quality Compassionate Care  
Exclusively for Ferrets, Rabbits, Rodents,  
Reptiles, Birds, and other Exotic Pets*

Receiving Patients at  
Beaverton Pet Clinic  
11876 SW Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy  
Beaverton, OR 97007

Katrina Ramsell Ph.D, DVM  
NWExoticPetVet@hotmail.com  
(503) 646-6101

### WANTED: CFN Secretary

#### Duties:

- \*Attend BOD meetings (2-3 hours, every other month) and take notes on what is discussed and decided.
- \*Type up notes for a permanent record of the meeting.
- \*Print and keep copies of meeting minutes.
- \*Read email from other board members every 24 hours and respond within 24 hours.

\*If you can help, PLEASE contact CFN at 503-231-0887  
or email us at [ferret@cascadeferret.org](mailto:ferret@cascadeferret.org) (THANK YOU!)

**Ferret out a Friend at  
Cascade Ferret Network's  
7<sup>th</sup> Annual Ferret Awareness Day  
DATE CHANGE NOTIFICATION  
The confirmed date is **JULY 26**  
1pm – 5pm / Free Admission  
(details on page 9)**

## SOUTHWEST ANIMAL HOSPITAL

*"Quality compassionate veterinary care for ferrets, rabbits,  
rodents, hedgehogs, reptiles & other exotic pets"*

Mark E. Burgess DVM  
Melinda Surrency DVM

6139 SW Murray Boulevard  
Beaverton, OR 97008-4421  
Tel: (503) 643-2137 / Fax: (503) 626-7392



### ☐ CFN WISH LIST ☐

- |                                     |                                       |  |                |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|----------------|---------------------|
| *Foster homes                       | *Quarantine homes                     | *Sponsors                                  | *CFN Secretary | *Stamps             |
| *Canned a/d                         | *Canned w/d                           | *Ferretone                                 | *Volunteers    | *Copier paper       |
| *Boxes of facial tissue             | *I.V. pump                            | *Litter                                    | *Bleach        | *Monetary donations |
| *High quality kitten or ferret food | *Laundry detergent (scent & dye free) | *Gift certificates to office supply stores |                |                     |