



# CASCADE SUMMIT

NEWS FROM CASCADE FERRET NETWORK VOL. 9 ISSUE 3/4, SUMMER/FALL, 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

The Cascade Ferret Network took in 15 ferrets from April through September 2008. Adoptions were very slow during those six months of 2008, but CFN placed five ferrets in new homes. Seven CFN ferrets (Wasabi, Frannie, Harley, Kit, Hoss, Lily and Zoe) passed away during the 2nd and 3rd quarters of 2008. There are currently more than 50 ferrets 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 second and third quarters of 2008.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2008

##### Revenue

Adoption fees.....	\$187
Donations (cash).....	\$2,264
<u>Merchandise sales (gross).....</u>	<u>\$230</u>
TOTAL.....	\$2,681

##### Expenses

Vet/medical costs.....	\$3,436
<u>Other.....</u>	<u>\$158</u>
TOTAL.....	\$3,594

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2008

##### Revenue

Adoption fees.....	\$95
Donations (cash).....	\$3,046
<u>Merchandise sales (gross).....</u>	<u>\$691</u>
TOTAL.....	\$3,832

##### Expenses

Vet/medical costs.....	\$2,465
<u>Other.....</u>	<u>\$405</u>
TOTAL.....	\$2,870

## 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

## CASCADE SUMMIT DOUBLE ISSUE NOTICE

Please note this is a double issue covering Summer and Fall 2008 (April through September). The next issue (which will be posted/sent out in early May) will also be a double issue for Winter and Spring 2009 (October through March). We apologize to our beloved readers, and hope you can please excuse our delay.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2008:

*Jacqui Orlosky* has volunteered to try out being secretary on CFN's board of Directors. *Kim Reynolds* volunteered to help staple, fold, seal, label and stamp the over 300 copies of the spring issue of the newsletter. She even came over to pick them up



and drop them off again. She has also been helpful by transporting ferrets. *Kim Donahue* has transported several ferrets from CFN's Grants Pass foster home. These ferrets were originally sent out of state from California.

Several people have been extremely helpful to a CFN foster home. *Jamie Stamberger, Jenni Clark & James Lee, Rachel Miller, and Lisa McLennan* 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 Barron, Julie Tench, Lavon Grabn, 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 April, May, June, July, August and September 2008. *Lisa & Steve McLennan* donate many bags of ferret food on a regular basis along with special ferret treats: N-bones.

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 2nd and 3rd quarters of 2008: *Julie Andreca, Mika Gentili-Lloyd, Lisa & Steve McLennan, Mike Eadie & Anna Wellborn, Julie Andreca, Tom Eliers, Tony Petrarca, Jeff Mulcaster, Steve & Jacqui Orlosky, Machiko Tomita, and Christine Stockton.*

Two people make regular matching donations through their employer. *Elizabeth Paul* and *Keeli Adams-Rutherford* donated with a matching donation from PGE, and someone made an anonymous donation through The Untied Way.



\*Photo shows Lisa McLennan with volunteers Jenni Clark and James Lee.

A very heartfelt thank you to the devoted volunteers that played Santa, took photos or helped with the photo packets: *Lisa McLennan, Jennifer Barron, Jacqui Orlosky, Cherrie Williams, Elayne Barclay, Maryjo Andersen, Jamie Stamberger, Jenni Clark, James Lee, Kelly Dowell, Darby Ipock, Cody Dowell, Jennifer Lecher, Sydney Lecher, Jenni Freimoller and Tom Gerde.* Thank you to our foster ferrets, *Sanyer, Vonny and Alaska.*

**Event Reports**

**Santa Paws Fund raiser  
Vancouver & Gresham  
Petsmarts  
December 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> 2008**



\*Photo shows Lisa McLennan as Santa with foster ferrets, Sawyer, Vonny and Alaska.



\*Photo shows Lisa McLennan with helpers Jennifer Barron and Jacqui Orlosky.



\*Photo shows Lisa McLennan with (what we feel) a very satisfied customer!

Once again, CFN was asked to staff several Santa Paws photo sessions. The sessions are fund raisers sponsored by PetSmart. The store supplies everything and the organization staffs the session by providing someone to be Santa, someone to take the photos and someone to be an assistant. The organization gets \$5 for each photo packet sold.



## Quality of Life

### Enrichment: Specific Enrichments: Taste

By Bob Church\*

This may be the first enrichment that will cause problems in application; for some strange reason, ferrets will put ANYTHING into their mouths EXCEPT new foods. Electric wire--ok, nasty garbage--fine, bacteria-laden socks--great, bitter apple--sure, new food--WHOA, get that crap out of here! It constantly amazes me that ferrets will sample poisonous fluids from under the sink, eat rat and cockroach poisons, swallow bits of rubber and dine on sponge, but swivel their heads when offered fresh chicken like a child trying to avoid a double dose of castor oil mixed with bile.

The problem is olfactory (scent) imprinting, a natural phenomenon that "locks" polecats into hunting specific animals found in their local environment (well, for new foods anyway; I have NO idea what goes through their minds regarding the bad stuff). As polecat kits are fed in their nest, the scents of the animals brought in to them by their mother stimulate those olfactory cells and associated structures. Olfactory stimulation actually keeps these cells and nerves alive; those that are not stimulated deteriorate and die. Why waste energy keeping alive connections that are not needed? The declines of these olfactory connections are severe enough by the third month of the polecat's life that 70%-80% of their olfactory preferences are "locked in." By the time a polecat is 6 months old, 90% of olfactory preferences are set, and by the time a polecat is a year old, the brain is wired to only recognize specific odors as food. That is olfactory imprinting, and ferrets

have inherited the trait from their wild polecat progenitors (ancestors).

Ferrets older than a year of age are EXTREMELY reluctant to try new foods; some, having dined on a single kibble for years, will starve rather than try a new diet formulation. The ONLY real solution is to give young ferrets (6 weeks to 1 year--the younger the better) as wide a diet as possible, introducing an extensive diet of kibbles, raw and cooked foods, and various nutritious treats. Ferrets have SOME ability to learn new food scents, although it seems more of a learning process than a rewiring one, and the solution is time consuming and frustrating to both the ferret and the owner. The only real solution is prevention, not cure.

So, why is this discussion of SMELL taking place in a discussion of TASTE enrichment? Because the two are so intimately connected; much of the sense of taste is actually smell. Ever have a cold and notice foods taste bland? Ever eat the overly spiced food cooked by a heavy smoker? Both colds and smoking reduce the sense of smell, greatly impacting the sense of taste. This means ANY taste enrichment is ALSO an olfactory enrichment as well. It also means we can intensify taste enrichments by enhancing odors.

Some hints to make the experience more satisfying to both the ferret owner and ferret include:

1. WARM the food to enhance the smell,
2. Add a familiar scent to a new one to make it more acceptable,
3. Liquefy a new food to make introduction easier (ferrets will lick a new food off a finger BEFORE they will try sampling it from a dish), and
4. Remember the idea is to ENRICH through taste, NOT teach to eat new food; sampling is the

goal, not consumption (although if done young, it accomplishes both).

Taste enrichments can be anything, although I don't recommend nasty flavors. The occasional piece of dog chow, a Cheerio, a TINY bit of fruit or vegetable (no more than a couple of 1/4 inch cubes), teaspoon of milk, chunk of cheese, TINY chunk of red licorice, a malt ball; you get the picture. Remember, it is ok to give junk food such as sugar treats AS LONG AS it is done infrequently and mixed with more nutritious foods, and as long as it doesn't injure an ailing ferret. Just giving treats are enrichment, but you can combine the taste delicacy with other types of enrichments to enhance the effect.

#### 1. Gimme Dat Ting, Gimme,

**Gimme Dat Ting:** Chop favored treats into small fragments not exceeding 1/4 inch along their longest length. I hide these fragments around the room, hidden in bedding, in clumps of hay, inside toys, etc.

**2. Forgotten Love:** Once a week, the regular diet is replaced with one of the foods learned during the olfactory imprinting period. I randomly feed various ferret kibbles (frozen until use to keep fresh), duck, turkey, deer, elk, dried beef, cat foods (dry and wet), and various soups and gravies.

**3. "Ferretasbord":** Take 5 or 6 new foods, blend them to a paste with a bit of water, and warm them to about 100F or 40C degrees. Pour the warm liquid into shallow dishes, then dip your fingers in the fluid, and touch it to the ferret's nose. They will naturally lick it off, getting the taste enrichment.

**4. Spray 'N' Wash It Down:** Select 3 or 4 foods, and then blend them to liquids. Water the food liquids down so they can spray through an



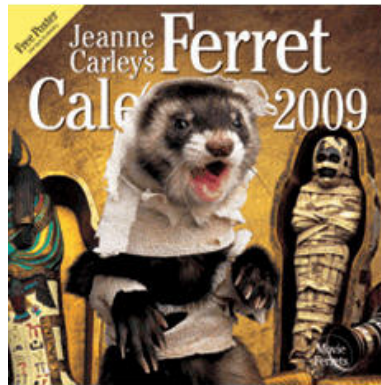
inexpensive aerosol bottle. While playing with the ferret, occasionally spray the face and paws. This should excite the ferret by stimulating the senses of smell and taste (besides getting squirted). Some ferrets go wild and others stop dead in their tracts and lick off the spray.

**5. Stinky Eggs:** Obtain a half dozen wooden eggs (available at craft stores), and drill a 1/2 inch hole in the wide end, about 1/2 inch deep. Fill the hole with various treats, and toss them out for the ferrets. This is one of MY favorite enrichments, and one my ferrets adore. Sometimes I will soak the wooden eggs overnight in something smelly. The eggs tend to stain from the food, so I replace them on occasion if I think they are unsanitary. Some of the eggs have been dyed bright red with food coloring, others have been stained white and marked with black magic markers.

\*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. We will notify you via email when the next issue of the newsletter is available online. The CFN will keep all email addresses private and never provide the list to any other organization for any reason.



### 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! Calendars are currently on sale for \$7. Contact CFN at (503) 231-0887 or email us at [ferret@cascadeferret.org](mailto:ferret@cascadeferret.org).



### Merchandise for sale...

- \*Ferret Art (many shirt designs and colors available)
  - purchase through the CFN link to the Zazzle on-line store: [www.cascadeferret.org](http://www.cascadeferret.org) (price depends upon shirt style)
- \*Erin Bishop's fantasy ferret designs T-shirts and cards
- \*Leaping Ferret Beer T-shirts
- \*Robo-ferret T-shirts
- \*Ferret design buttons, magnets, stickers & decals: 25¢ - \$2.50
- \*Custom button or magnet with your ferret's photo: \$5
- \*Cards with Erin Bishop's Artwork: \$3



- \*Handmade hammocks and sleep sacks (very posh and custom orders are possible -- contact CFN): \$10-\$30
- \*Used cages (prices vary)
- \*20 foot long clear flexible play tube (worth the price!): \$20
- \*Totally Ferret treats: \$1
- \*Chewasels (chicken, carob, garden herb, molasses, banana, spice, and raisin): 3 for \$5, 4 for \$6, 6 for \$9 and 12 for \$16.50
- \*Caddis bedding small square hammock, large rectangular hammock, circle den, hang-out house (tube)- \$5 each or set (without corner sleeper) for \$15
- \*Snake toy: \$1      \*Soc-R-ball: \$1





# THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!

The Cascade Ferret Network is very grateful to the following businesses that generously donated merchandise or supplies to CFN's 7th Annual Ferret Awareness Day on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008:



- Northwest Compounders*
- The Ferret Company (Jeanne Carley)*
- North Portland Veterinary Hospital*
- Southwest Animal Hospital*
- Northwest Exotic Pet Vet*
- Bowtie Publications*
- Ferret.com*
- Superpet*
- Performance Foods (Totally Ferret)*
- Ferret Depot*
- Hyper Fur*
- Hills Pet Nutrition*
- Doctors Fosters & Smith*
- Oregon Ferret Association*



Many thanks to the following individuals who donated supplies, prizes or merchandise:



- Nancy Winter*
- Leonard Bottleman*
- Sally Filler*
- Lavon Grahn*
- Kim Reynolds*
- Mary Jo Andersen*
- Cherrie Westover*



The Cascade Ferret Network is very thankful to the *Oregon Humane Society* for allowing CFN to house the event at their location!





## 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!



~Oola~

### Oola's Story

Oola really needs a forever home, we thought she had found one, but when her owner unexpectedly became pregnant, Oola was returned to CFN. The good news is that YOU have a chance to adopt this adorable little princess of a ferret! Oola originally arrived in July of 2007 and we thought she was about 1 year of age at that time. She was owned by a resident of California who did not want her any longer so not only was Oola in need of a new home, but she also needed to find a new state in which to live because ferrets are illegal as pets there. Poor Oola had to travel all the way from Redding, CA to Portland, OR. She is a beautiful chestnut brown color and has a very short tail, which we are unsure if she was born with or if she had an accident or surgery that resulted in the cropping of her tail. Oola is very sweet and loves to play with balls by pushing them around with her nose. She will roll them

toward a human and then wait for the human to roll it back past her so she can chase it. Oola likes other ferrets and she has no tattoos so we do not know her origin. If you think you can provide Oola with a permanent loving home, please contact CFN at (503) 231-0887 or email us at [ferret@cascadeferret.org](mailto:ferret@cascadeferret.org).

### Mathilde's Story

Mathilde could use some "special needs" sponsors. She was found in the middle of nowhere in October 2006, unable to use her hind legs. Her rescuers took her home and contacted CFN to help. We made the four hour round trip to Lebanon, OR to pick her up and found a very robust 3-4 year old sable sprite that had no tattoos to tell us her origin. She may have been bred locally. She had no sign of any injury and since she was quickly regaining some use of her hind legs, we suspect she may have had atrophied muscles from being cage bound or sustained a nerve injury during her escape. She has a small growth on one of her front legs that needs to be removed. Mathilde has been living in the same foster home with a group of other foster ferrets since her arrival and is a favorite of the humans, but not always the other foster ferrets (she has a strong personality and prefers males to females). In the morning when it is their turn to get out, almost all of the ferrets are piled into the lowest hammock (closest to the door) waiting for the door to open so they can spill out. Mathilde is ALWAYS the first one through the door if she is awake. Sometimes she is still asleep and then you can pick her up and enjoy her waking up slowly while holding her and giving her scratches. She yawns and stretches and then makes the most pathetic groaning, moaning, squeaky sounds that she only makes when in her "sleepy" mode. We love it, I wish you could hear her!



~Mathilde~

In October of 2007, Mathilde had a surgical procedure to remove a sebaceous epithelioma on her left front leg and she got her teeth cleaned while she was anesthetized. Early in 2008, Mathilde had a malignant tumor removed from her vulva area. She had to have her rear end and "private parts" shaved, which has yet to grow back. The pathologist felt all the tumor had been removed and Mathilde recovered well, but she is getting older and has recently started losing weight so we have started her on supplemental feedings of a/d soup twice daily. Sponsorships would help pay for Mathilde's special food and medical bills. If you become a "special needs" sponsor for Mathilde, in return you will receive photos and quarterly updates on how she is doing for a year. If you are interested in becoming one of Mathilde'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 her online. Like all contributions to CFN, your sponsorship is tax deductible!



### CFN Foster Parents

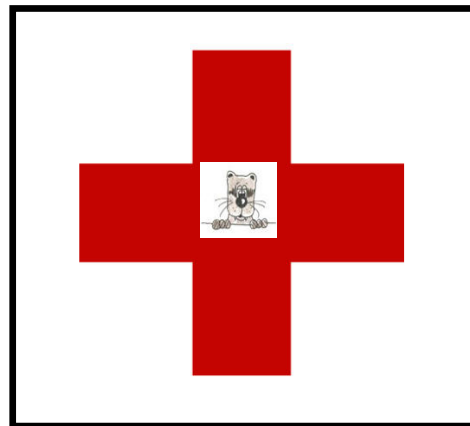
Thanks to the following individuals that provided foster care from April through September, 2008.  
In addition to providing foster care, many of the foster parents listed below also help CFN  
by paying for the prescription diets and medications of their foster ferrets.

- Kelli Carlson:** Roxanne, Lily & Elly Mae
- Jennifer Barron:** Lucy, Buttons & Bo
- Katie Hanson:** Barnaby & Kit
- Carla Almaraz:** Tattletail, Jules, Merlin, Hoss & Bullwinkle
- Lavon Grahn:** Domino & Balboa, Buffy, Sterling, Frannie & Frazier, Harley & Dylan, Ajax, Millie, & Seasons
- Rebecca Bogorad:** Violet & Daffodil
- Marilou Chamberlain:** Penny, Sheba & Amber
- Elayne Barclay:** Annie, Minnie Me & Mister, Mathilde, Bambino, Timber, McLovin, Legolas, & MacGyver,
- Cherrie Williams:** Libby, Betty Boop, & Lola
- Tish Beltz:** Eloise
- Marie Lockwood:** Bo & Buttons, Pandora, & Sawyer
- Jacqui & Steve Orlosky:** Sawyer, Lucy, Vonny, & Alaska
- Katrina Ramsell:** Sacajawea, Toasty, & Duckie
- Kim Reynolds:** Grady
- Brad Holt:** Vonny & Alaska
- Debi Currier:** Oscar & Calvin, Dookie & Yuki, Wasabi & Sushi, Loki & Bowen, Sedona, Nevada, Reno, TJ, Tommy, & Kool

### CFN Ferret Sponsors

Thanks to the following individuals that provided financial support by sponsoring  
a special needs shelter ferret during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2008:

- Anna Wellborn & Mike Eadie** (Annie & Sterling)
- Clyde Prince** (Sterling)
- Peter Muhlhausler** (Longfellow)
- Laura Satterfield** (Mister)
- Fran Harris** (Tattletail)
- Ann Lynde** (Mister & Jules)
- Julie Andrecia** (Roxanne, Mister, Lance & Jules)
- Aron & Barbara Segal** (Lance)
- Crystal Johnston** (Daffodil & Violet)
- Lisa & Steve McLennan** (Jules, Frannie & Frasier)
- Tom & Christy Claassen** (Eloise)
- Marie Lockwood** (Sterling)
- Stacy & Kaile Riser** (Liberty)
- Lars Christianson** (Elly Mae)
- Mika Gentili-Lloyd** (Betty Boop)
- Machiko Tomita** (Barnaby)



Thanks to the following individuals that provided financial support by being an Incoming Sponsor  
(paying for ADV testing and vaccines) during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2008:

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

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

## A NOTE TO OUR PRIMARY SERVICE PROVIDERS;

**Many thanks to those who make a huge difference...**

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. Katrina Ramsell* at Northwest Exotic Pet Vet, *Dr. Mark Burgess* and *Dr. Melinda Surrency* at Southwest Animal Hospital, *Dr. Ross Weinstein* at North Portland Veterinary Hospital, *Tom Eilers* of Northwest Compounds, *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* and *Hyper-fur*.

### □ CFN WISH LIST □

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