



CASCADE SUMMIT

NEWS FROM CASCADE FERRET NETWORK VOL. 6 ISSUE 4 / FALL, 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



Ferrets

During July, August and September of 2005, CFN took in 10 ferrets and found new homes for 14 ferrets, six of which were through referrals. It was a sad three months for CFN foster parents with six deaths of long time shelter residents. Amaretto, Zella, Spunky, Petree, Bobbi Sue, and Eowyn all crossed the rainbow bridge. Sadly, two new comers, Forest Gump and Kiki did not survive the surgery they required.

A lot of veterinary procedures were done during the 3rd quarter of 2005. Nine Lupron injections were given to shelter ferrets to alleviate symptoms of adrenal disease. Kitkat

had a dentistry along with surgery to remove insulinoma tumors and her left adrenal gland. Irish had an ugly mass the size of a ping pong ball removed from her shoulder along with a dentistry. Duncan had to have an emergency catheter placed into his bladder a week before his surgery to remove his left adrenal gland and insulinoma tumors. Kiki needed bilateral adrenal and insulinoma surgery, but unfortunately had an undetected heart issue and did not survive the surgery. Forest Gump was a poor surgical candidate, but it was his only hope after Lupron and melatonin failed to help him urinate normally. He did not survive the procedure to remove both his abnormal adrenal glands and insulinoma tumors.

The Cascade Ferret Network currently has 33 ferrets in the foster network.

Financial

Income from donations, the sale of merchandise, adoption fees and boarding services 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 3rd quarter of 2005.

3rd quarter 2005

Revenue

Adoption fees.....	\$355
Boarding fees.....	\$380
Donations (Cash).....	\$2,275
Merchandise profit.....	\$477
<u>Moving Sale Gross</u>	<u>\$1,039</u>
TOTAL.....	\$4,526

Expenses

Vet/medical costs.....	\$3,194
<u>Other</u>	<u>\$842</u>
TOTAL.....	\$4,036

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 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 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!

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 Acknowledgement

CFN is grateful to all the individuals that donated supplies during July, August and September of 2005.

Rebecca Bogorad donated a memory card reader. *Petco* donated a lot of returned or slightly damaged items that CFN can resell, such as front pack carriers (still have LOTS of these if you might be interested) as well as food and litter for the shelter ferrets. The *Oregon Ferret Shelter* donated 48 lbs of ferret food.

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 3rd quarter of 2005:

Andrew & Ingrid Heekt, Ross & Jennifer Bachman, Keeli Adams, Jeff Mulcaster, Bryan & Nancy Lipsy, Kathleen Pallari, Clyde Prince, Heather Christy and Roger Findlay. Several donors work for companies (Nike, PGE and Microsoft) that have matching funds programs. Their donations to CFN are increased by 50-100%.

CFN was able to be on the donation side of helping other shelter ferrets. A box of used items (hammocks, sleep sacks, water bottles, and litter pans) was sent to Save Our Shelters to help ferret shelters affected by hurricane Katrina.

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 sent to you, 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.

Ferret Champions

To be a champion can mean more than one thing. A champion can be an advocate or defender, or someone that does battle for another's honor. A champion can also be someone that shows marked superiority. In this column I am going to focus on a person that is a ferret champion in all of these respects. The champion in this issue of the Cascade Summit is

Lavon Grahn



~Lavon Grahn & Hattie ~

Lavon is truly a Ferret Champion in every sense of the word. She has devoted huge amounts of her time, energy and resources to make life better for the ferrets she comes into contact with through volunteering with the Cascade Ferret Network. Lavon wasn't always a Ferret Champion, she started out as an ordinary citizen with a grown son and daughter, a full-time job and a home of her own before her life changed five years ago when a little ferret wondered into her yard. She is now immersed in ferrets morning, noon and night. She provides foster care for CFN ferrets, quarantines new ferrets in the network, sews bedding to raise money for CFN, interviews people interested in adopting, checks CFN phone messages, is a member of CFN's Board of Directors, staffs the CFN table at Petsmart adoption sessions,

pet fairs, fund raising events and takes every opportunity available to educate the public about ferrets. I asked Lavon to explain how she went from being an average person to a Ferret Champion and what her life is like now, this is her story in her own words.

"How, you ask, does a sensible 63 year old woman, happily running her own furniture business, enjoying her new home with four kitty friends, end up less than two years later with 17 ferrets added to the mix??

Easily! As some of you could quickly guess, it's called FERRET MATH! The first little guy found me, I didn't go looking for a ferret. He turned my house nearly upside down while I was waiting to see if someone would claim him; I tried to find his owner, but no one was looking for him. That was a good thing, because I became very attached to him in no time. My vet of almost twenty years didn't know a lot about ferrets, but his vet tech, Nancy Winter, turned out to be a walking encyclopedia of information and common sense on ferrets. As she gently and deftly guided me throughout the first rocky weeks of ferret ownership (I had not done homework; I had no preparation; I had no idea I would own a ferret until I owned one, and boy, did I scramble to keep one step ahead of Slinky, who really owned me), she planted the seed in my mind that Slink just might like to have a buddy to help burn off some of that energy, and keep him company. Enter CFN. I didn't know ferret shelters existed, But Nancy did! She drove me there, and on the way she planted the notion in my head that three ferrets were just as easy to take care of as two, and often they came in bonded pairs... and of course, Slinky chose a pair. Somewhere along the line I had mentioned to Elayne or Nancy that quite a few years ago, I used to be a foster parent to newborn human babies, keeping them until they were



adopted. It was suggested to me, that I could foster ferrets too. By now I had been an owner for two or three whole months, and was thinking about them constantly. I was HOOKED! In trying to be a responsible owner, though, I knew I couldn't do it right financially if I owned any more at that time, so fostering made perfect sense. I loved every ferret I saw, and wanted every ferret I saw. Fortunately, with friends like Elayne and Nancy to keep me in check, er..sorta in check (most of the time) I've discovered that my best happy number is 11. But in fairness, I have to say the rest of the story- I'm now retired, able to stay home and dote on these little lumps of love, and reap the gallons of unconditional love they pour over me daily. The older, ill, pretty much unadoptable ones are the ones I'm drawn to the most. So I guess I've become a hospice. Helping them to be comfortable until they leave for the rainbow bridge is somehow more fulfilling than I'd have thought possible. I've had several that I'll never get over losing, like Lindsey, whose presence is still around to comfort and love me even though she's been gone since June! I've also had more than my share of wonderful babies that were adopted, and it's been harder than I imagined it would be to give them up. Even when I know they're going to great homes, it tears my heart out to not have them here any more. I keep hoping it will get easier if I give them up more often, but it hasn't happened yet. My solution for the pain of losing one, or the happy pain of placing one in a new home is always to take in a new one; there's always another waiting in the wings. I've had the extreme pleasure of caring for nearly 50 ferrets in the last five years. I'm wishing that the next five years bless me in the same way!"

I hope CFN will be blessed with Lavon and other Ferret Champions

like her for many years to come! If you want to become a Ferret Champion, contact CFN (ferret@cascadeferret.org or 503-231-0887) about volunteering



Quality of Life

Enrichment: Experience Novelty for the First Time By Bob Church*

Wild polecats live in a constantly changing environment. They face seasonal changes, differences in geology and vegetation, lakes, streams and rivers, different types of prey, dangerous predators, human habitation, roads, and thousands of new experiences each day. The number of interesting, unique odors alone must number in the thousands. Within the context of all these new experiences, polecats have to find enough food to stay alive, so they are constantly problem solving, or using their memory. Each day is a mental challenge to a polecat, one that taxes their intellect, memory, and experience. Polecats are up to that task--for millions of years, they have occupied the same niche, expanded their territory to include most of the northern hemisphere, and have physically changed very little. They are, as species go, quite successful. That means they have the brains to do their job. Ferrets are domesticated polecats, and one of the "side-effects" of domestication is that domesticates have a smaller brain volume with a corresponding

lowered intelligence. This is commonly seen in dogs, cats, and nearly all other domesticated animals. Is it seen in ferrets? That is VERY difficult to say because it is so difficult to identify the polecat ancestor. Ferrets have skulls that have a narrowing of the braincase just behind the orbits (orbits house the eyeballs) called the post-orbital constriction, so they look more like steppe polecats (*Mustela eversmannii*) than European polecats (*Mustela putorius*). The question is, is the narrowing because of domestication, or because of ancestry? I do not think ferrets follow the "dumbing-down rule of domestication" because ferrets were historically crossed back to polecats to improve hunting instincts, ferrets were used to hunt animals in the same context as polecats (requiring the same intellectual abilities), and ferrets were bred to increase curiosity. I suspect most intellectual differences seen between ferrets and polecats are due to environmental differences, such as those noticed between groups of humans living in different economic groups within the same basic culture. Intelligence (in any animal, even humans) has been strongly linked to early experience; pet ferrets are raised, shipped, sold, and housed by owners in extremely limited environments. It is probably such ferrets would rank lower than polecats nurtured in a diverse and challenging situation. Ferrets face a far different world than polecats. They memorize their cages rapidly, learning each object, each corner in short time. They eat the exact same food, sleep in the exact same bedding, poop in the exact same latrine, play with the exact same toys, and explore the exact same limited space day after day after day after day. If a child were raised in a closet, the government would take the child away and imprison the parents. Yet ferret owners are happy to place a curious, intelligent animal in a similar



environment for years at a time, with only an hour or two escape once a day. If a ferret, out of boredom or perhaps displaying stereotypic behavior, happens to move the litter box, or dig in the food, the objects are wired to the cage preventing ANY possible interaction; they are, in short, being penalized for being bored in a boring environment. A big difference between ferrets and polecats is novelty--that is, new objects or situations a ferret might experience for the first time (or infrequently). This WILL cause short-term stress, which unlike long-term stress, is good for the body. The ferret might become excited; perhaps they may dook or bottlebrush their tail. They might become quite intense in their reactions, seeming frantic or obsessive in investigating the situation. Novel situations stimulate a ferret's curiosity, memory, problem-solving skills, and forces the ferret to use sensory organs (sight, hearing, smell, taste, touch) in an effort to sort things out. Novelty will NOT make a boring environment any less boring, BUT, it WILL make such a situation more tolerable. Novelty is best applied randomly, without regard to time or day. Introduce a novel object or situation one morning, then a day later do it in the evening. Wait a couple days, and enrich them with novelty in the mid-afternoon. Be random, but be consistent in introducing novelty. Some ideas for novelty can include odors, visual stimulation, sounds, textures, objects, unusual tastes, and the like. Smells may include perfumes, food and drink odors, edible oils, animal smells, dirt or vegetation aromas, human sweat, flowers, and aromatic herbs. I buy those cheap spray bottles, fill them with distilled water, add the scents, and then spray various objects like balls, paper bags, piles of straw, and cardboard boxes. Sometimes I seal something aromatic, like fresh potting soil or a

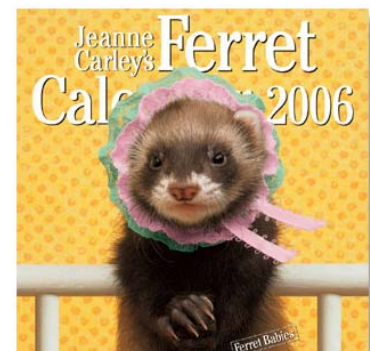


handful of mint leaves, in a box and then cut a single access hole. I typically will scent the water with stuff from the kitchen, but I have found a sweaty work shirt, or a well used hammer on a pan is just as effective. Visual stimulants can include large, tonally graphic objects (large balls, colored boxes), small, bright objects (bright balls, large chrome dice), and moving objects (old spoons hanging from string, sometimes with the bowls filled with treats). I like to play nature CDs of water, lightning, frogs, and birds, but I also record my own voice and play those CDs while I am gone. Other auditory stimulants include crinkle sacks, plastic bags, a pan of pea gravel, and old wind chimes hung low enough so ferrets can stand up on their back feet and paw the dangly parts to make noise. Stimulating textures can include various fake furs, sandpapers, boxes of crinkled paper, and pans of rocks, sands, and gravels. ANY new object is good, especially if they also have a new odor or texture. Unusual tastes may not be accepted as food, but that is not the point. Blend liver to a paste, and smear it on a ball, or rub some liverwurst on hard plastic toy. The object here is to introduce NOVELTY, not necessarily find new foods. If the ferret sniffs and tastes them, that is enough.

* Reprinted from the Ferret Mailing List, June 2003

Jeanne Carley's Ferret Calendar 2006

There are several ferret calendars available these days, but the best and original one is done by Jeanne Carley, a devoted ferret advocate. Because of the confusion with the different calendars produced by different people she has decided to change the name of her calendar to "Jeanne Carley's Ferret Calendar". Besides being the first and best ferret calendar, Jeanne's calendar also provides a way for shelters to make money to help ferrets because she allows shelters to buy the calendars at a discount for resale. Jeanne Carley's Ferret Calendar 2006 is now available through CFN (we still have the 2005 calendar left too, available for \$7). This year's calendar features baby ferrets! It's hard to imagine anything more adorable than ferrets, unless its baby ferrets. Sunflower sables, a tiny sock-sized dreamer, a raucous school bus full of kits, and a toy chest trio are just a few of the delightful images in store for ferret lovers. Check out the images for each month at: www.ferretcompany.com. The calendars can be purchased for \$14.95 (plus postage if shipped) from CFN with all proceeds going to shelter ferrets. Call or email for info on shipping or pick up.



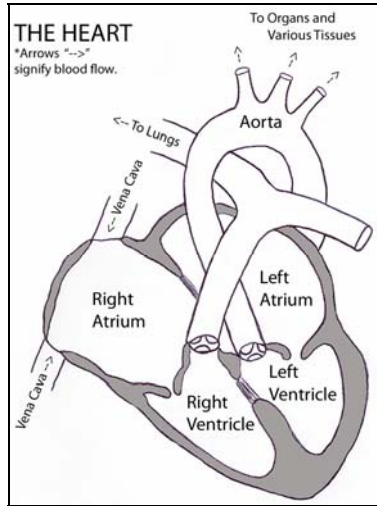


Health Matters

Cardiac Disease in the Ferret Katrina D. Ramsell Ph.D, DVM

Cardiac (heart) disease is relatively common in many species, including pet ferrets. In ferrets, heart disease is usually associated with electrical disturbances, aberrations in the heart muscle (cardiomyopathy), and sometimes abnormalities of the heart valves. Heart problems arise less commonly from parasites (e.g. heartworm) and rarely from congenital defects.

Although the heart functions as one organ, the lungs separate the blood flow through the right and left sides of the heart. Valves partition each side of the heart into two chambers; other valves are located between the right side of the heart and the lungs, and between the left side of the heart and the aorta (the main vessel that directs blood from the heart to the rest of the body). The heart pumps freshly oxygenated blood from the left atrium to the left ventricle. Blood then travels to the rest of the body via the aorta. The aorta distributes blood into arteries, which feed into the various organs supplying the tissues with oxygen, glucose, electrolytes, hormones, etc. Next, the oxygen-depleted blood travels through veins to the vena cava, which returns blood to the heart. The right atrium is the first chamber in the heart to receive the oxygen-depleted blood, followed by the right ventricle. At this point, the blood goes into the lungs for re-oxygenation and then moves back into the left atrium (which begins the whole process again).



Normally, the electrical signals that keep the heart beating regularly originate in an area near the right atrium and travel through the heart to the ventricles (A-V). When there is damage to the electrical pathway, not all of the electrical signals complete their journey; this impairment is termed second-degree (A-V) heart block. Veterinarians may or may not treat this condition, depending upon the severity. If none of the electrical signals get to their destination, identified as complete or third-degree (A-V) heart block, a backup system kicks in: a ventricular pacemaker keeps the heart beating. However, this pacemaker runs at a much slower rate than the normal (A-V) pacemaker. Ferrets with complete heart block are often lethargic, have low exercise tolerance, and occasionally “pass out.” This condition is not very common, and there are medications to help increase the ferret’s heart rate and improve its quality of life. Ferrets with complete heart block generally have a shortened life span. In some instances, the ventricle contracts prematurely on its own before receiving the normal signal to contract. These “premature ventricular contractions” or “PVCs” are irregular beats that can result in less effective blood flow from the heart. There are medications that

can help regulate the electrical signals in the heart.

Cardiomyopathy is a disease of the heart muscle. There are two types of cardiomyopathy in ferrets: dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM); the former is much more common and occurs relatively frequently in middle-aged to older ferrets. A thin heart wall that is less able to contract properly characterizes DCM. This results in the dilation of the left (and/or right) ventricle(s), which causes a decrease in the effectiveness of blood movement through the heart and to other parts of the body. Over time, the heart begins to fail. With HCM, the heart muscle becomes very thick, leaving less room for blood in the left ventricle. Consequently, an increased pressure in the left ventricle results, which leads to subsequent heart failure. Clinical signs associated with DCM and HCM are similar and include lethargy and difficulty breathing; a discussion of the clinical signs of heart failure is below.

Valvular heart disease is occurring more frequently, most often in middle-aged to older ferrets. If heart valves are “leaky,” your veterinarian can hear blood “swishing” back up into the previous heart chamber with his/her stethoscope; this sound is a heart murmur. Clinical signs associated with murmurs vary depending on the severity of the underlying disease, and progression of the disease can result in heart failure.

Heart murmurs, heart arrhythmias (irregular rhythms), and an increased or decreased heart rate will lead your veterinarian to suspect heart disease. You may notice mild lethargy, exercise intolerance (increased episodes of “flat ferret”), and a decreased appetite in the early stages of the disease. As the disease progresses, you may hear coughing if the enlarged heart begins to press on the trachea. The disease is in





advanced stages (heart failure) when fluid accumulates in the abdomen or chest, the ferret has difficulty breathing, and/or the gums turn blue. Middle-aged to older ferrets that appear to have respiratory difficulty frequently have underlying heart disease that has progressed to heart failure. It is important to be able to recognize the clinical signs of heart disease as it may help you extend and improve your ferret's quality of life.

When heart failure occurs, the blood will back up in the vessels and decrease flow to vital organs. Loss of normal blood flow to the kidneys encourages fluid to accumulate in the body, termed congestive heart failure. Right-sided heart failure can result in fluid accumulation in the abdomen, which leads to a "potbellied" appearance, swollen legs and feet, and an enlarged liver and/or spleen. Fluid in the abdomen can put pressure on the diaphragm, making breathing more difficult. Left-sided heart failure can cause fluid accumulation in and/or around the lungs. A ferret in left-sided heart failure is unable to take in normal amounts of oxygen; fluid within the lungs reduces the space available for inhaled air, and/or the ferret has difficulty expanding the lungs due to the fluid pressure around the lungs. Decreased oxygen intake may result in low energy levels (lethargy and exercise intolerance), cyanotic (blue) gums, low body temperature, and weak pulses in the hind legs. Fluid can also accumulate in the sac surrounding the heart; this additional fluid pressure makes the heart work harder, which adds stress to the heart tissues.

A parasite (worm) that resides in the heart causes heartworm disease. Mosquitoes transmit the heartworm larvae into the bloodstream. Therefore, you can easily prevent heartworm disease with appropriate medications. Your veterinarian will recommend heartworm prevention in areas of the country where

mosquitoes are more prevalent and heartworm disease is a problem. For instance, heartworm disease is not common in the northwestern states, but it can occur frequently in the southern states. Although your veterinarian can treat heartworm disease, the therapy can be difficult and dangerous; preventing the disease is unquestionably preferable.

Your veterinarian can obtain a definitive diagnosis for electrical disturbances, cardiomyopathy, heartworm disease, valvular disease, and subsequent heart failure with diagnostic tests, including radiographs (x-rays), electrocardiograms (ECG), and echocardiograms (ultrasound of the heart). Radiographs can show heart enlargement and fluid accumulation within the abdominal cavity and/or various compartments within the chest cavity. Electrocardiograms offer an illustration of the electrical impulses within the heart and reveal any electrical abnormalities. Echocardiograms show the heart in real-time; veterinarians can determine how well the heart is contracting and if there is thickness or thinness of the heart wall. Echocardiograms can also help veterinarians differentiate between heart disease and other diseases that can show similar clinical signs such as lymphoma.

Veterinarians can manage heart disease with medications and sometimes a diet change; however, there are no cures for abnormal electrical signals, damaged heart muscle, and "leaky" valves. The goals of therapy include:

- reduced workload on the heart;
- increased blood flow, and subsequently, enhanced oxygenation to the muscles, tissues, and organs;
- improved contractility of the heart; and
- prevention of fluid accumulation.

There are medications designed to help achieve these goals, and once started, treatment is usually life-long. Ferrets with fluid in and around the lungs are effectively drowning and need relief immediately. Furosemide (e.g. Lasix®) can medically remove excess fluid from the body, but it is important that the ferret drinks well and remains hydrated while on this drug. A thoracocentesis (physical removal of the fluid from the chest) can be very helpful and can greatly improve the ferret's ability to breathe. Enalapril (e.g. Enacard®) reduces the workload on the heart; other drugs help control the rhythm of the ferret's heart. Veterinarians use these medications together, often in conjunction with other heart medications, or individually. Some of these drugs help achieve treatment goals in certain disease situations, but they can be devastating in other circumstances. For instance, enalapril can exacerbate third-degree heart block; ferrets with third-degree heart block usually have low blood pressure and enalapril reduces the blood pressure even further by dilating veins. When the blood pressure becomes too low, the ferret can lose consciousness (pass out). If heart failure in a ferret continues to progress and breathing is very difficult and labored despite medical therapy, you should consider euthanasia for humane reasons.

Among the several diseases that can affect the heart, clinical signs are variable and sometimes subtle, even just prior to a major crisis. Identifying a heart problem early may improve treatment results; therefore, it is important to take your ferret to your veterinarian for annual exams. If your veterinarian suspects heart disease, he/she will recommend appropriate diagnostics and may initiate medical therapy. Since ferrets with heart disease require careful monitoring, your veterinarian should re-examine these ferrets at least every six (6) months.



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!



Maggie's story

Maggie has had a long history and not all of it is clear. I first heard about Maggie in November 2004 when her current owner contacted CFN for advice. He had been given Maggie by an acquaintance because she was lonely after the death of her cage mate from "mysterious circumstances". He was told Maggie was 3.5 years old and he was concerned about her showing obvious signs of neglect, having loose stool and being underweight. He had some odd ideas about ferrets acquired 20 years ago when he bred them. He was shocked at Maggie's lack of interest in smoked oysters and sardines, a favorite treat of his ferrets in the past. He just didn't understand these "modern ferrets" as he put it. I got to meet Maggie in early 2005 when he brought her from Dallas to Portland to buy a cage and have me look her over. She looked good with a beautiful chocolate colored coat of long soft fur and he said she had been enjoying her new life with him. He was planning on getting a companion for her in the future, but life got in the way. In June her owner started having financial difficulty and had to move to a place that would not allow him to keep her any longer. He contacted CFN to help him find Maggie a 3rd home. Maggie arrived in June and has been living in a foster home with a male ferret who enjoys her company, but she is looking for a new forever home. Maggie is from Marshall Farms.



Kitkat's Story

Kitkat is in need of a sponsor. She arrived at CFN in October of 2002 as a 4 year old along with 8 other ferrets from the same home (Pluto, Twizler, Twix, Dolly, Martin, Ringo, Terra, and Nova). She was purchased from Petco as a kit. The individual that brought her to CFN said Kitkat and her cage mates needed to find a new home because of a lack of interest by his wife and kids in making time to give them attention and care for them. A year or so later his then ex-wife called to say what he did was the last straw and caused their divorce, in fact they loved the ferrets and had created an entire playground for them in the garage, but he didn't want them in there and didn't want to pay for the vet care some of them needed. She wanted to get back the ferrets that were left, but she never followed through with CFN's adoption approval process. In the mean time some of the group had been adopted, others had health issues, and one had died from lymphoma. Pluto, Twizler and Kitkat were the ones left that were most likely to get adopted. Pluto didn't like other ferrets, so we wanted him to stay with either Kitkat or Twizler, this made Kitkat harder to place. Kitkat is a very sweet girl with the cutest expression on her face. Because of her sweet nature, Kitkat and Pluto became regulars at Petsmart adoption sessions, but it was Twizler that ended up finally finding a new home as a friend for another ferret, that meant Kitkat stayed with Pluto who was now having heart issues, making the pair even harder to find a home for. Kitkat started having health issues of her own in 2004 and was placed on medication for insulinoma. Eventually she had surgery in July 2005 to remove the tumors in her pancreas that were causing the low glucose in her blood, she also was in desperate need of a dentistry. Her surgery showed an abnormal pancreas, a sample of which was sent to a pathologist to examine. It showed that Kitkat had malignant cancer of her pancreas. This meant the surgery did not really help her much with her low blood sugar problem, and in a few months she was back on medication. She is currently on a low dose of prednisone, but will likely have to go onto more expensive medication in the future. In September Kitkat moved to Canada as a foster ferret living with the former CFN director. Her buddy Pluto recently passed away, so she has moved in with the personal pets of her foster parent. A sponsor would help pay for her long-term medication. If you sponsor Kitkat, in return you will receive a sponsorship certificate, a photo, and updates on how she is doing. If you are interested in sponsoring Kitkat, send the CFN a note and a check for \$60 or go to the CFN web page and follow the instructions to sponsor her online. Like all contributions to the CFN, your sponsorship is tax deductible!



TIS THE SEASON TO GIVE THANKS...



CFN Foster Parents ~ Thanks to the following individuals that provided foster care from July through September:

Marianne Talbot (Marmot & Irish)
Karen Kloeck (Truffle & Candy)
Sally Filler (Boomer & Mindy)
Debi Currier (Calaban & Tempest)
Jennifer Fresta (Mr. Green Jeans)
Katie Hanson (Barnaby & Bartholomew)
Carla Almaraz (Forest Gump & Tattletail)
Jennifer Johnston & Mike Guarino (Lita)
Katie & Heather Daniels (Kiki, Sunshine, Atticus, Hufflepuff, Olympus & Elliot)
Lavon Grahn (Possum, Zella, Petree, Zima, Chickadee, Sophie, Duncan, Ophelia & Bumper)

Karen Brecknock (Midge)
Rebecca Bogorad (Natasha)
Chris & Amy Christian (Zest)
Jeanne Brumbaugh (Io)
Katie Poppe (Maggie)



CFN Ferret Sponsors

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

Anna Wellborn & Mike Eadie (Possum)
Laura Satterfield (Zella & Duncan)
Kathleen Pallari (Irish, Barnaby & Bart)
Clyde Prince (Hillary & Zima)
Brent & Erin Forgeron (Chickadee & Midge)
Tamara Schryver (Iwizler)
Jerry Zimm & Jody Austin (Gizmo)
Fran Harris (Tattletail)
Peter Muhlhausler (Petree)
Rebecca Bogorad (Willow & Spunky)
Arlene Nelson (Ricochet)
Valerie and Scott Walker (Pluto)
Jeff Mulcaster (Duncan)
Crystal Johnston (Natasha)
Jan Chandler (Elliot)
Fiona Merrill (Sophie)

THANK YOU

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. Sarah Willcox and Dr. Katrina Ramsell* at Southwest Animal Hospital, *Joe Pruett* at Q7 (a networking consultant) who setup and hosts our Internet domain -- 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 July, August, and September 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 Kloeck, Sally Filler, Heather Christy, Marla Blaney, Rebecca Bogorad, Julia Steig, Katie & Heather Daniels, Jennifer Bachman, Clyde Prince, Jeff Mulcaster, Adriana Rivadeneira, Lisa & Graham Verdon, Crystal & Al Johnston, Valerie & Scott Walker, Kathleen Pallari, Kelli Carlson, Hannah Bowen, Jennifer Johnston & Mike Guarino, Katie Poppe, Marianne Talbot, Bryan & Nancy Lipsy, Roger Findlay, Andrew & Ingrid Heckt and Arlene Nelson.*





Ferret Depot invites you to play another round of "My Favorite Shelter"

Here is your chance to help your favorite shelter. All you have to do is e-mail us at myfavoriteshelter@ferretdepot.com and tell us the name of your favorite shelter and why they should win the BIG STOCKING full of the treats and toys that ferrets adore as well as a Ferret Depot Gift Certificate for \$100.00. A Holiday treasure worth over \$300.00! The shelter that receives the most e-mails supporting them between November 18th and November 30th, wins.

- You can only enter once per unique e-mail account.
- Please put the name of the Shelter in the subject line.
- Please add the shelter manager/directors name(s) in the body of the message.

It's festive, fast and fun and everyone can help to spread Holiday Cheer-

E-MAIL US NOW!!!!

To all the shelters: help spread the word and help yourself win this wonderful Holiday Treat! Add a link to our site on your website... <http://www.ferretdepot.com/banner.shtml>, post it in your forums, put signs up at your shelter and forward this e-mail to your supporters.

Winner to be announced on December 6th!

By sending an e-mail for the offer above each person acknowledges and understands that their e-mail address will be entered into our database to receive future mailings from Ferret Depot.

*To be removed from this contact list please e-mail ellen@ferretdepot.com



~ CFN WISH LIST ~

- * STAMPS
- * VOLUNTEERS
- * EXPERIENCED FOSTER HOMES
- * QUARANTINE HOMES
- * HILL'S SCIENCE DIET A/D



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



Come one, come all; come have a ball,
Join us for our festivities this fall!
We need your support; please help our cause,
The ferrets will think there's a real Ferret Claus.
Come sun or rain, whatever the weather,
Let's help some ferrets—let's do it together!!



Frosty Ferret Frolic

Ferret Appreciation Day
Sunday December 4, 1pm - 5pm
Oregon Humane Society
31067 NE Columbia Blvd. in Portland
(www.oregonhumane.org for directions)

On December 4th the general public is invited to "*Frosty Ferret Frolic*" at Cascade Ferret Network's annual **Ferret Appreciation Day**. The event is intended to expand appreciation of ferrets as pets, inform the public about the CFN and its operations, and to raise funds for the CFN. The following activities will be a part of this event:

- * Weasel Wheel of Fortune
- * Meet shelter ferrets
- * Raffle of donated ferret related items
- * An educational lecture on Aleutian Disease by Sarah Willcox DVM
- * Silent auction of one-of-a-kind ferret related items
- * Holiday photo session for your ferret
- * Expert ferret vets for health screening
- * New & used ferret merchandise for sale

