

Paws-It!

Washington Ferret Rescue & Shelter

Volume 29 Issue 1

Petco Outreach Builds Public Awareness

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Imagine a day when there is little need for ferret shelters because most ferrets will have a loving home. Public education and awareness can help ensure that homeless ferrets become a thing of the past. Perhaps if we dream big enough this scenario will become a reality in our lifetime. Cyrene Probart, a Washington Ferret Rescue and Shelter volunteer, and Petco animal supply stores are no small part of that vision.

Probart initiated a Petco outreach program over a year ago. She had been a volunteer helping to clean WFRS weekly and expanded her role by going to different Petco locations once a month. The

Petco outreach program does an excellent job of educating the public about ferrets. The goal is to increase awareness about homeless ferrets and the role WFRS plays in rescuing them and adopting them out. People also



learn how to properly care for a ferret before impulsively purchasing one. Probart mentions that some Petco customers have never even seen a ferret. However, after talking with her at Petco, they not only learn about them, but also come to under-

stand that there are many in shelters that need loving homes.

When asked about her role as an outreach ambassador, Probart replied, "We take a group of friendly ferrets to a different Petco each month and bring

along a portable pen, a table and some chairs. We also bring some literature to hand out about ferrets and their care and some adoption

applications in case someone is interested in adopting at a later date." She says her favorite part of the outreach role is meeting and talking to people about ferrets.

Probart credits her daughter for sparking her own interest in

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both helping and owning ferrets. She says, "My daughter was bugging me that she wanted to get a ferret, and we found one that needed a home. So, our love for ferrets began!" Probart's daughter is no slacker, either. At the ripe young age of 13, she and her friends help at the Petco outreach days. They're a shining example of just how much teens can help by spreading ferret awareness.

When asked how Petco employees feel about the outreach program, Probart responds, "The staff is wonderful, they treat us great and they are glad to have us. We are [set up] either in the front of the store for exposure or by the small animal area." The pet store chain benefits because interested adopters will likely purchase their ferret food and supplies at the Petco location where they found their favorite fuzzy.

Probart says that the ferrets chosen to go to a given outreach really soak up the attention. It's also a great antidote for ferret shelter boredom. After an adventurous day at Petco, she knows that the ferrets are tired from playing and a full day of



handling. But that's a small price to pay for a potential home.

Megan Reuther, director of WFRS, thinks that Probart, her daughter and Jennifer Brown, who has also done a few outreach dates, are doing a great job. Reuther says, "I've had several people interested in ferrets decide to go the adoption route because of the outreach days. They saw the ferrets in the store, spoke with the volunteer and ultimately decided to come to us and support rescue. Oftentimes,

people will mention an outreach, or a particular ferret that they met and they'd like to adopt, and we'll steer them right to that one."

WFRS wants to expand the outreach program to include the Petsmart chain and independent pet shops. But that takes more volunteers specifically attracted to this fun and challenging opportunity. Please contact Megan at washingtonferret@yahoo.com if you are interested or want more information.

What's New?

Dumping Season... er, is there a season anymore?

We're getting in fuzzies faster than we can adopt them out. We have a bunch of wonderful, adoptable ferrets that need new homes. If you've been thinking about adding a ferret to your crew, now is definitely the time! Please fill out an application & come see us soon! We're open every Saturday from 10am-4pm.

* washingtonferret.org/application.html

Let's talk numbers! As of February 13, 2007, the Washington Ferret Rescue & Shelter is currently housing 76 ferrets on-site at its facility, has 5 ferrets in



temporary homes and has 68 in permanent foster care. This year, to date, the Washington Ferret Rescue & Shelter has received 30 ferrets, has adopted 19 ferrets and has placed 4 in permanent foster care. Our goal is always to reach 100 placements each year, and we've never failed. It looks like we're off to a great start again this year! Thank you to all of our ferret families that make this all possible!

Ferrets Seeking Homes ...

Adoptable Ferrets

Please see the [adoptable pet list](#) on our website for current availabilities. Adoption fees are \$100 for one ferret, \$150 for two, and we have a [foster program](#) as well. All ferrets have been vaccinated against Canine Distemper & Rabies and have been spayed/neutered and descented (the latter is unless otherwise noted).

While darling, these babies have already learned how to bite. All 9 will require a ferret-savvy homes that can teach them a new set of manners. They are all Real Canadian ferrets. **Bellona** - 3 month old dark sable female; **Ceres** - 3 month old sable female; **Diana** - 3 month old dark sable mitt female; **Flora** - 3 month old lighter sable female; **Luna** - 3 month old dew female; **Minerva** - 3 month old sable female; **Terra** - 3 month old sable female; **Vesta** - 3 month old sable female; **Aurora** - 3 month old silver sable blaze female. Note: Some of these babies are not quite ready to be adopted, as they have prolapsed rectums. This will be resolved prior to adoption.

These cuties arrived shortly after Thanksgiving this year... thus the themed names! **Apple Crisp** is a 1.5 year old sable boy w/ white paws, **Ham** is a 1.5



year old sable boy, & **Giblet** is a 1.5 year old sable boy. They can be split into pairs or adopted as one big, happy group!

Bear (2 yrs, sable f) & **Noodles'** (2 yrs, dark sable m) owner sadly could no longer keep them. They are very sweet, sociable kids and would love a new home for the new year!

Brutus is a big boy, that's around a year of age. He's a Canadian boy, and is big and silly. He likes to play with Rascal & with Clyde & Homer. He would easily fit in with most play groups.

Meet the candy group! **Butterfinger** is a 3 year old silver male, **Caramel** is a 1 year old chocolate/sable male, **Snickers** is a 1.5 year old sable with bib. These cuties can be paired up or adopted as a sweet ferret trio.

Chance is a wonderful boy. He is 7 years old and is looking for a retirement home. Do you have a ferret-sized hole in your heart that this sweet old boy can help fill?

Doodles (3 yrs, m, silver), **Inspector** (4 yrs, m, silver sable) & **Snacks** (4 yrs, f, dark sable) arrived at our shelter on Sat, 9/9. We would love to find them a home together. They're all wonderful ferrets!

Ferris (1.5 y/o black mitt male), **Dexter** (2 y/o chocolate male) & **Chloe** (3 y/o sable female) have been at the shelter since the end of September. They are sweet kids and are ready to find a new home together. Please come visit this ferret family soon!

Gimili (3 yr old chocolate male) & **Consuela** (2 year old dark



sable female) have been at our shelter since April. They are very nice ferrets and we'd love to see them find a home of their own soon!

This group came in together in the middle of November. **Harry** is a 2 year old sable boy, **Hermione** is a 2 year old sable girl, **Newbie** is a 2 year old light blaze female and **Sally** is a 2 year old champagne female. They can be adopted in pairs or as a ferret family.

Isis is as cute as a button, and has a great personality. She doesn't like other ferrets, and will need to be an only fuzz. She is a sable mitt girl that's around 4 yrs old.

Juliet is a 3 year old sable girl, **Twik** is a 2 year old sable female, and **Twiker** is a 2 year old light sable. The girls came in together and we would like to find them a home together. Please come see them if you're interested in adopting these sweethearts!

Lilly (4 yr DEW female), **Lilo** (4 yr silver female), **Sammy** (4 yr silver male) & **Chami** (5 yr sable female) were surrendered to our shelter in June. We've love to see them find a new home soon so they don't have to spend much time at the shelter. Please let us know if you'd like to meet these sweethearts.



Lizzie & Fidget are one year old chocolate girls. Lizzie has severely bitten one of our volunteers, and the girls should go to a ferret experienced home. They love other ferrets, and have a lot of fun playing with them.

Marshmallow is a 3 year old albino boy & **Cocoa** is a 4 year old dark sable girl. They are a lovely pair of ferrets and would love a new home.

Sid is a 10 month old champagne boy & **Misty** is a 1.5 year old chocolate female. This pair is super cute & fun! Come see them soon, they won't be here long!

Nutmeg is a 4.5 year old chocolate girl. She doesn't particularly care for other ferrets and would be happiest in a home by herself. She is a feisty girl and has lots of life left in her :)

Priscilla is a 3 year old sable female & **Frisco** is a 2 year old chocolate mitt boy. They were surrendered together at the end of January and are looking for a new home. Would you like an adorable pair of fuzzbuckets?

Rascal is a 2 year old dark sable boy. He likes to play with Brutus here at the shelter. He is a sweet boy with an exceptional temperament. We'd love to find him a new home soon.

Rascal is a 3.5 year old sable boy & **Buddy** is a 3.5 year old sable guy with white toes. They would love to go home for the holidays - come meet them today!

Rip is a 3.5 year old silver blaze boy, **Priscilla** is a 3 year old dark sable girl & **Scampy** is a 3 year old champagne girl. We'd like to place this 3-some together as a group. Won't you come meet them?

Roxy is a 6 year old sable girl & **Zoey** is a 3 year old dark sable female. Roxy & Zoey are very sweet, little girls and are quite healthy at this time. We'd love for you to meet them!



Shadow is a 3.5 year old silver boy and **Lady** is a 4 year old cinnamon female. This pair is all that is left of a big group of 6 fuzzies.

Tol (5 year old cinnamon male), **LD** (5 year old dark sable girl), **Fate** (4 year old dew male) & **Damian** (5 year old sable male) were all surrendered together and are now seeking a new home. We would prefer to place them all together, but they can be split into pairs if necessary.

Tyson & Hannibal are large dark sable boys that came from the UW. They're still occasionally nippy, but are learning their manners in the shelter. They'll need a loving and pa-

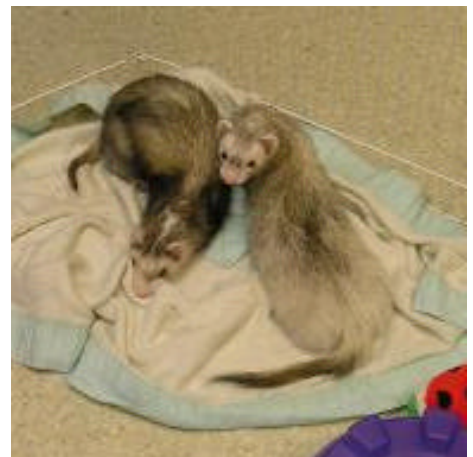
tient home, but should make wonderful pets.

Vlad & Slinky are 2-3 year old chocolate colored ferrets. They would love to find a home of their own with humans to spoil them rotten. They've had a rough go of it these past few months and sure deserve a good home.

Foster Ferrets

Note: We do not charge an adoption fee for our foster ferrets, though many of them will require a vet visit (or several!) in their golden years. The Shelter provides medical care and any medications, obtained at the shelter, that your ferret will need in exchange for a monthly donation to help cover your ferret's medical costs. Even just a few dollars, once a month, helps keep our foster program running, so that we are able to continue helping elderly/ill ferrets.

Suzie (3.5 yr sable female), **Daisy** (3 yr silver mitt female) & **Lucy** (3.5 yr chocolate mitt female) were surrendered to our shelter together. They are adorable and we'd love to place them all as a big group. If you're interested in adding a ferret family to your home, please contact us soon!



Washington Ferret Rescue and Shelter
13603 100th Ave NE
Kirkland, WA 98034

We're on the Web!
www.washingtonferret.org

A 501(c)3 non-profit organization

Yes, I want to help Washington Ferret Rescue & Shelter!

Enclosed is my donation of:

- \$5.00 ()
\$10.00 ()
\$15.00 ()
\$20.00 ()
Other ()

Please make your donation payable to Washington Ferret Rescue & Shelter (or WFRS) and mail to:

**13603 100th Ave NE
Kirkland, WA 98034**

Contributions are tax-deductible under 501(c)3 regulations of the Internal Revenue Service. Appropriate receipts will be mailed for your records.

Our Wish List:

Donations of time or money are always gladly accepted & appreciated!

Hammocks, Security Cubes—homemade or store bought, we can always use hanging sleep sacks of some sort.

Wood stove pellets for litter (found at Safeway, local hardware stores, the Grange, etc.)

Cages or carriers—clean or dirty, we don't care!

Volunteers to wash laundry, scoop boxes, scrub cages and cuddle ferrets.

More foster homes! Do you have room in your home for a few extra fuzzies for a few days/weeks? Do you have any medical training or are you interested in learning? Let us know!

Ferret Food (Mazuri, Totally Ferret, Marshalls & The Ferret Store's Superior Choice)

() I am moving! Please see below:

() Yes, I know of someone else who would like to receive the newsletters.

Please send one to the following:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:
