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## Curious Creatures: The Beauty Of Owning A Ferret

By Jason Flintstone

When it comes to getting ourselves or our children a pet, most of us think of a playful puppy or

fuzzy kitty, but chances are few of us think about "adopting" a ferret. Yet, according to experts these curious creatures are quite fun-loving and lovable. Not to mention that they adapt fairly well to apartment living making them "ideal" if you're looking for a pet that's easy to take care of.

Furthermore, the domestic ferret is adorned by opulent fur, which varies in color from off-white to dark brown. There are also albino ferrets whose white fur fades to yellow over time and with age. And, some recent cross breeding offers a "new" breed of silver-furred ferrets.

However, experts note that taking care of a ferret does require a bit more understanding and work than with your "average" pet. Unlike a cat or dog, a ferret cannot be left unsupervised and requires a substantially sized cage (allowing the animal to roam around comfortable while you are at work).

Experts also suggest ensuring that the litter box is solid and securely attached to the floor of the cage so that it doesn't accidentally get knocked over while the ferret is "exploring" and playing.

Ferrets do also need time to roam free. In fact, experts recommend at least an hour of supervised exercise daily. But, they suggest airing on the side of caution, since their curious nature can cause them to go exploring or to wander off and potentially getting hurt. Also, because they are relatively small and lightweight they can easily burrow into small spaces, urging experts to suggest keeping a keen eye out on your pet's activities, as well as covering up any holes, cracks, or other crevices and small spaces.

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Ferrets, under the proper care and supervision can live to be 10 years old. Experts remind ferret owners (or want-to-be owners) that ferrets are carnivores and should be fed high quality, dry cat food. Also, they should occasionally be offered small chunks of veggies or fruit, and bathed once a week using a mild shampoo. And, don't forget to clip the claws periodically.

Finally, find a good vet and remember to keep up with regular visits and annual check-ups.

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### **The Domestic Ferret**

**By Patricia Johnson**

How is the domestic ferret different from other kinds of ferrets? And do ferrets make good pets?

The domestic ferret is the most common breed of ferret in the world. These make good pets, as long as you can take care of them properly. It is necessary for anyone who will be purchasing a ferret to realize that they require a lot of work and attention. However, they do make for interesting pets, well suited for children as well as adults. The domesticated ferret is one which you can feel comfortable adding to your home. You simply have to be able to make the commitment to meet its special needs.

There are other ferrets that are wild. These have been used for years to control the rabbit population in various countries. Yet, they are also banned in many countries because of how well efficiently destroy the ecology of the area. The Black-Footed ferret is one that is fighting its way back from extinction today. These non-domesticated ferrets do not make good pets, and should not be used as such.

On the other hand, there are many domesticated versions that are perfect to add to your home. These creatures live for about eight to ten years and will exhibit curiosity similar to a kitten that just won't grow up. The ferret is a creature that likes to get into things and play. It likes to explore its surroundings, so you will need to insure that your home, or any other areas that the ferret will be in, are safe for it.

There are many important things that you should realize about the ferret. Anyone who is looking for a pet that is full of energy and curiosity, that is somewhat different from the other animals, and that can provide the pet with a good home with lots of entertainment, should consider the ferret. Most people who have owned ferrets have enjoyed them, and would be willing to invite another one into their home.

Patricia Johnson enjoys writing for several online magazines, including

<http://lotuv.com>

and

<http://lajop.com>

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