



FERRET FRIENDS

March 2006

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Ferret Friends Inc.

A 501(C)(4) Nonprofit,
No-Kill - Rescue, Shelter,
and Club in Tucson AZ

Please be generous with
your donations! Make do-
nations or membership fee
checks out to Ferret Friends
Inc. Send to:

Dian Curran
PO BOX 594
Vail, AZ 85641

GINNY CHILDS, FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, PASSES AWAY

Written by Don Heywood

Love is the supreme form of affection. Be it the deep attachment between two souls or the tender fondness that develops between us humans and our trusting pets, love rules. It is eternal. It can't be swept away just because Bandit, our ferret, decided to sneak out the door, run across the street, explore, and get lost. No, no—Yes!—Love is strengthened by loss. That's why we freak out when we realize that we left the door open, and Bandit is lost in that great-big world we call our little neighborhood. . . . You know, the little neighborhood with the great-big light bulb in the immense blue sky. And we grow quite concerned for Bandit when that great-big light bulb begins to flicker and its warm glow is suddenly replaced by a puny, diminutive night light: It is at this precise moment that we realize the true meaning of love. . . . Love is not a word. There are enough four-letter words on the market. Dictionaries cannot define love. I've scrutinized some of the greatest books ever written and I've come up empty-handed. That is because love is a state of being. . . . It is the agony of time lost in the past and the hope of time yet to come. . . . Promises. . . . And that is why we love Bandit and why we will also convey ourselves to the ends of our little neighborhood in search of him. . .

Sometimes, however, things don't work out the way they should, and we must conclude that Bandit is lost. And it's hard, so very hard to come to terms and go on with life, but we endure. And time passes. . . . And we do reminisce. We remember the way Bandit would do the war dance. . . . And how about the ambushes? When our ankles would be abruptly ravaged by nibbling teeth, and we would be forced to correct Bandit with a good, solid tummy tickling. . . . After this tummy tickling, Bandit will never do—"Hey! You little-" And Bandit would dare us to catch him again: These precious moments, as with so many others, have been brought to many of us by our founder and late club president Ginny, 'Bright Eyes', affectionately, Virginia Childs: '. . . . I hope you weren't mobbed at the rainbow bridge, mom?'

HELP NEEDED

Ferret Friends really needs volunteers to help us with various aspects of keeping our shelter going, physically and financially. Please consider giving us some help.

Some of the ways a person can volunteer; Write something for the newsletter. Join the board of directors. Help formulate and put on a Ferret parenting program at the Humane Society. Help us

out at special events when they arise, such as the county fair. Help a current foster parent by cleaning cages, playing with ferrets, washing bedding, and other ferret housekeeping chores. Contact Carol 762-5568 or Michelle 664-1077 if you can help.

There's also a need for someone to be in charge of making donation cans and

collecting change from donation cans that we can set up in vet offices and pet stores. The rest of us need to be sure to fill our own cans with change and send in our dues. If everyone would pay dues we could pay off our outstanding balances at the vets. Please be generous with your donations! Make checks out to Ferret Friends Inc. Send to: Dian at PO BOX 594 Vail, AZ 85641.



Over the RAINBOW Bridge

Ginny Childs

Banabee Owens

Banessa Heywood

Merlyn Davis (cat)

*Ross Waag (German
Shepard)*

Shelter Ferrets

Frankie

Sweetie Pie

In memoriam

Virginia Helen Ramsdell Childs

“Ginny”

May 2, 1929 – October 28, 2005

On October 28 Ferret Friends lost our co-founder, leader and president of many years when Ginny Childs passed away. Ginny had many illnesses in the past few years and was in and out of the hospital and rehab many times. But in October it was the last time. Her one remaining kidney was failing and she got pneumonia, then everything seemed to fail and she left for the Rainbow Bridge. She left behind her faithful dog Brighty and fourteen ferrets that are now in the care of others.

Ginny was involved with ferrets for many years and had previously had three coatimundis. She wrote and illustrated a book about life with Kooky Coatimundi.

She led the club and Ferret Friends was chartered with the now-defunct International Ferret Association in 1985.

Ginny taught Scientific Illustration at the University of Arizona where her husband Richard taught chemistry in the School of Pharmacy. They married in 1958 and he passed away in 2002. Ginny was an accomplished artist in other media and has left us with many T-shirts silk-screened with her cartoons of Kooky. Her life revolved around ferrets and Ferret Friends, taking some in and doing

adoptions, arranging our events, caring for many fuzzies. She also volunteered in the last few years to clean seeds at Native Seed Search and joined the local lodge of Sons of Norway in friendship with members Dorfay and myself.

Her double-wide was cleaned out by her brother Robert, his son John and son-in-law Martin along with several Ferret Friends members. The trailer has been sold and also the old IH Travelall. Ferret Friends has anything ferret-related. Old files and papers were found, including the charter. Photos of early picnics in Fort Lowell Park. I have many supplies like water bottles, dishes, bedding. We have cages if anyone needs more.

Also many items were found that can go to anyone interested including the Kooky T-shirts in many style, sizes and colors. I will bring these to the next picnic on April 15. In the vein of Ginny’s generosity there will be no charge but donations are always welcome.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, November 12 in the

park clubhouse where we had many yard sales. Dian Curran led the service and several friends spoke of their friendship and experiences with Ginny over the years. Later in the afternoon family and friends took some of the remains and some of Dick’s to the Kennel Nirvana in Marana where they were sprinkled on top of the grave of her pony. The rest went with her brother to the family plot in Massachusetts.

When her freezer was cleaned out there were eighteen ferrets in there awaiting disposal, and through her friendship with Natalie Carlton of Kennel Nirvana cremation of all the bodies was arranged with Darla of the Pet Cemetery of Tucson. We want to thank Darla for her generosity and kindness in donating this valuable service. The ashes will be spread in the same area at the Kennel Nirvana where part of Ginny and Dick’s ashes were sprinkled after the memorial service.

Written by Carol Owens

THE CURRENCY CORNER: WORDS FROM THE TREASURER

Treasurer Report 1/21/2006: \$2050.00 in Treasury. \$2000 was donated in Memory of Ginny from different sources. Aries needs growth surgery – Robin is taking him to Bear Canyon. Ferah needs lupron shot - \$219.00.

Other items discussed: Carol changed our address with the IRS the first week of November. Carol had them sent to Dian. Dian

needs the tax papers by the 1st of May; otherwise she will need to contact the Corp. Committee. Robin offered to run things down, because she works downtown. Also Dian will need an inventory of the following from all who have any Ferret Friends inventory or fosters: Ferrets, cages, bottles, bowls, and etc. for taxes.



As of March, we are down to \$800. Most of the funds went to helping sick ferrets.

Some are cuddly, others more independent; they vary a lot, just like other pets.

WHAT ARE FERRETS

Ferrets are domestic animals, cousins of weasels, skunks and otters. (Other relatives include minks, ermines, stoats, badgers, black-footed ferrets, polecats, and fishers.) They are *not* rodents; taxonomically they're in between cats and dogs, a little closer to dogs. They are friendly and

make excellent pets. If you've never met one before, the easiest way to think of them is somewhere between cats and dogs in personality, but rather smaller. They can only see reasonably well, but they have excellent senses of hearing and smell. Some are cuddly,

others more independent; they vary a lot, just like other pets.

Retrieved from the World Wide Web on May 27, 2005 at: http://www.ferretcentral.org/faq/part1.html#what_are



BUDDY'S STORY

BY DIAN CURRAN

The following is an excerpt from Buddy's story, which can be found in its entirety on the Ferret Friends webpage: www.ferretfriends.org.

A month later Misty and Don decided to put up reward signs to hopefully get him back. Shortly afterwards, the neighbor brought him back almost dead and certainly abused expecting to get the reward for "finding" him. It was clear that the neighbor had stolen him and gave him to

their young daughter to make a Barbie out of him. He had had something tied around his middle that was so tight that he was swollen to the point where he could not eat or drink. His nails had been painted pink and he could barely move. He was down to less than half his original weight. The daughter is just a toddler and knew no better and I must say that the mother is a real fine role model (who do you think painted the nails?).

Don grabbed Buddy and slammed the door in her face. He then rushed him to Valley Animal Hospital where he was put on IV fluids for several days. He was touch and go for nearly a week but pulled through. His bill was over \$700. The evidence for abuse was clear.

"His nails had been painted pink and he could barely move."

Buddy's Story

WRITTEN MORTAL

*So many mistakes we have breathed in life,
times the many flowers' scents have gone unheeded,
yet shall we not learn as the precious years go by to breathe deeper,
to separate those tender scents and pass them on,
to enrich our families,
the coming generations,
our struggling human race. . . .*



*Maybe I am alone,
my fledgling scent lost amidst a sea of many swaying colors,
yet still I bloom
as the years grow old,
yet still I bloom,
to enrich my family's families,
the coming generations,
our struggling human race. . . .*



*So many mistakes we breathe in life,
times their many flowers' scents will go unheeded,
yet still I bloom,
as my last petals fall,
yet still I bloom;
to enrich my family's families,
their growing generations,
our struggling human race,
Yet still I bloom. . . .*



*In loving memory of you, Ginny.
- DH*

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

I want to thank all those who helped through this difficult time and invite all to join, re-join, boost, lend a hand physically or financially, to help Ferret Friends change and grow. We are taking in a lot of neglected, unwanted fuzzies, many needing surgery, all needing vaccinations, some needing maintenance like Lupron. This is a time of change and we need your help. We are in the process of applying for a 501c3 non profit status. Then donations of any amount will be tax deductible. I am hoping to establish regular bi-monthly meetings, more get-togethers than business. Have some speak-

ers sometimes, pot-luck meals, etc. Also I would like to plan four times a year ferret parenting classes at the Humane Society. I need help to do that.

If you have ideas to improve I would appreciate your input. The by-laws are being revised and will be distributed to all whether paid members or not. Those who no longer wish to receive the printed newsletter can opt out by letting Michelle know, or can just get the email newsletter or nothing at all. Please let Michelle or me know of your preference. (email us at ferretfriendsoftucson@yahoo.com or call at

664-1077) But if you would like to continue receiving it and be a member of Ferret Friends, then please pay your dues which will remain at \$20 per year per household. We may ask a small additional fee for each additional member of a household who wishes to vote in the future but not until we reach a higher number of paid households. This will be explained in the by-laws.

Donations large or small are always welcome to help in our work. Please send contributions to Dian Curran, PO Box 594, Vail AZ 85641. The ferrets thank you!

Dear ferret lovers,

Ferret Friends is sending you this newsletter as a courtesy even if you are not a paid member. Just this once. In order to conserve our funds for medical care for the ferrets in our care we are going to remove the names of those we don't hear from in response to this appeal. We would prefer to send the newsletter by e-mail to those who will supply your address, and that can go to anyone interested. Just send your email address to ferretfriendsoftucson@yahoo.com, subject: newsletter.

Those who pay dues or otherwise contribute will receive a printed copy if so desired. Please indicate on the form and send it to Michelle. Paper copies will be sent to the veterinarians and pet stores as usual. We are going to try instituting a deadline for the newsletter to get it out more regularly. Contributions from the general readership are welcome. Send any copy to Editor Michelle Schwerdtfeger at ferretfriendsoftucson@yahoo.com. Future deadlines for a quarterly publication would be June 1, September 1, December 1.

Thank you for your time and help, we hope to hear from you in the near future.

Ferret Friends

FERRET FRIENDS COUNTY FAIR PRESENTATION

Ferret Friends will continue to put on a presentation at the Pima County Fair. The date will be Saturday, April 29 at 5 pm in Old Pueblo Hall. We will have some ferrets for the public to handle and some displays. I will give

a stage talk as Ginny did but I get stage fright so anyone else is welcome to assist me. Please let me know if you will be attending and I will get parking and entrance passes. Come out to the country, enjoy the fair and help promote Ferret

Friends.

Thank you in advance to those who will be there. Carol Owens 762-5568

ADOPTABLE FERRETS

Switches	Dark Sable M	3	Dex	Dark Sable M, a little nippy	4
Jinx	Dark Sable M	3	Foxxie	Sable F, insulinomic	6
Hoppy	Cinnamon M, adrenal	6		adrenal, needs pred;	
Handsome	Cinnamon M	1	Snowflake	Albino F	6
Blanche	Albino F, nippy, not too bad	1		adrenal and insulinomic,	
Inkjet	Dark sable F, nice	1		surgery March 21, get pred	
Ferah	On Lupron, adrenal	2	Minkie	Sable M	6
Nibbles	Silver F, leg and ankle biter			insulinomic, not as severe, get pred	
	10 months				
Luna	Cinnamon F, adrenal	4	Buttercup	Sable F, on Lupron	
Mia	Sable F	4	Mistique II	Sliver F	
Cinnamon	Sable F	4	Christopher	Dark sable M	3
Jack	Dark Silver M	4	Maggie	Sable F	3
	Hyperactive, sneaky leg biter				

Ferret Friends of
Tucson

Board of Directors:

President: Carol Owens
762-5568

Vice-President: Robin Kladke
740-1707

Secretary: Michelle Schwerdtfeger
664-1077

Treasurer: Dian Curran
762-9710

Board Members:

Donald Heywood
975-0685

Ed Radek
624-0221

We're on the Web
www.ferretfriends.org

Ferret Friends of Tucson
917 N Solar Dr
Vail, AZ 85641-9744

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Ferret Friends Board Member Meeting—The Ferret Friends had a board meeting on January 21, at 1 PM. In attendance was: Carol Owens, Dian Curran, Robin Kladke, Michelle Schwerdtfeger, Don Heywood, Ed Radek, and Dor-fay.

Meet and Greet — Come and visit with us at Bookman's, the first Saturday of the month. The Bookman's at Grant Rd has helped Ferret Friends set up a meet and greet session from 11 AM till 1 PM. Questions? Call Michelle at 664-1077.

PETCO Adoption Days — April 8 and 9. We are looking for help with our stand at two locations.

If you are interested please contact Carol Owens at 762-5568.



Ferret Friends Picnic — April 15th at Reid Park Ramada 6. From 12 to 4 pm. Be early to allow time for food set up. This is a potluck picnic, please bring something to pass. If you bring your ferret, please bring shot records just in case.

County Fair—April 29. We are looking for volunteers who would be interested in helping out one

day. See inside article for more information.

Board Member Meetings — Board member meetings happen every other month on the third Saturday at 1 PM at China Star Restaurant. The next meeting is on May 20.

Vaccination Clinic—We will be having a vaccination clinic in July more details will be announced on the website.

Yahoo Group—We have started a yahoo group: ferretfriendsoftucson. Go to our website and click on the Ferret Friends tab or follow this link: <http://www.ferretfriends.org/aboutme.htm>.

Questions?
Contact Michelle S. at
Phone: 520-664-1077
Or email:
ferretfriendsoftucson@yahoo.com