

October 2007

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A 501(C)(3) Nonprofit,  
No-Kill - Rescue, Shelter,  
and Club in Tucson AZ

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

Ferret Friends  
C/O Dian Curran  
PO BOX 594  
Vail, AZ 85641

## Volunteerism: Will you help?

Written by Michelle Schwerdtfeger

**I have been working with Ferret Friends in one capacity or another for three years. In that time I have come to realize that the people who run this organization are very dedicated to ferrets and their care. But I have also come to realize that we could use some help from the many people out there who also care about ferrets. We have limited experience in getting people to help out in our many volunteering opportunities. We don't go to as many functions as we could because we only have a core group of 6 people who actively participate in anything.**



**We need volunteers. These volunteers can participate in any capacity, they range from helping run one of our programs to just donating 4 hours of time a year to help keep our programs running. We need help with our parenting class, our website, and our newsletter. We need people to: go to events and discuss the care of ferrets, pass out informational brochures, help set up and take down at the different events, and be a foster home. We are looking for people to help on our Board, so please get involved. We are encouraging you to help the ferrets, by helping us.**

**Ferret Friends would like to grow and become bigger and better, reaching more people and ferrets. We can not do this without you. The future of our organization is dependent on your help, our core group can not keep going as it has without everyone one of them entering burnout. Again we are asking for your help!**

**Did you know that Ferret Friends:**

- Has two picnics a year
- Has bimonthly meetings
- Has adoption informational meetings at Petco Adoption Days
- Has a website that lists our contact info and our upcoming events
- Has a newsletter that comes out three times a year
- Has a ferret parenting class
- Has a chicken gravy class



Over the RAINBOW Bridge

### Shelter Ferrets: Gilroy

Bassy

Zoey

Brown Pumpkin

Snowflake Pinkney-  
Baird

### Friends:

Oscar Owens

Brighty Childs (dog)

Juliana Heywood

Midnight Curran

Tahlic Curran (cat)

Anastasha Radek

Harley McBride

## HOW DO I TRAIN MY PET NOT TO NIP?

Found on the World Wide Web on October 8, 2007 at: <http://www.ferretcentral.org/faq/part3.html#nipping>

Like kittens and puppies, ferret kits must be taught not to nip. A ferret which has been bred to be a pet shouldn't be vicious or bite, but ferret play does include mock combat, and young ones won't know how hard they can put their teeth on you without hurting you. A playing ferret may run at you with his mouth open or even put his teeth on your hand, but if he presses down hard enough to hurt, you need to discipline him. Just remember, ferrets aren't malicious, they just need to learn what behavior is acceptable.

A very few otherwise calm, gentle ferrets will react in an extreme way to a high-pitched noise such as a squeaky toy (perhaps only one particular toy) or the sound of rubbing fingers on a window or a balloon. Nobody's quite sure why that sets them off, though it seems to be a protective instinct of some sort. If your ferret is one of those few who bites wildly at the source of such a sound, my best advice is, don't make that sound around them.

Sometimes a ferret which has been mistreated will bite out of fear, or an older ferret might bite because of pain, either in the mouth or elsewhere. In either of these cases, strict discipline isn't going to do any good. For an animal in pain, of course, take it to the vet. For an abused ferret, try one of the alternatives mentioned below, and have a lot of patience: the ferret has to learn to trust someone when all it has known before is abuse. Regina Harrison has created a Web page about caring for and rehabilitating such "problem" ferrets.

In all cases, positive reinforcement (giving treats and lots of praise when the ferret does well) works much better than punishment, but if you need one, use a "time out" for a few minutes in a cage or carrier. Similarly, don't set the ferret down when he struggles and nips – you'll be teaching him that that's the way to get what he wants. Finally, whichever method you use, consistency and immediacy are very important.

### Alternatives to nose-flicking

Flicking the ferret's nose while his teeth are on you is a pretty common form of discipline, but it might not be the best. Your ferret might end up associating you with bad things rather than good ones. Also, it's a very bad idea to use nose-tapping or other physical discipline on a ferret who has been mistreated or who acts unusually aggressive or frightened. There are several alternatives, which you might want to try in combination:

- If the ferret is biting too hard in play, try using a signal he already understands: a high-pitched "Yip!" (or "Hey!" or whatever), like the noise one kit makes when another is playing too roughly. On the other hand, if the ferret seems to interpret that as a sign of weakness, switch to a deep, commanding voice and act as stern as you can.
- Stopping the game by gently pinning the ferret down until he gets bored can work well, too.
- Confining the misbehaving ferret to a cage and ignoring him for a few minutes can be very effective, especially if there's another ferret wandering around conspicuously having fun.
- You can cover your hands with Bitter Apple, either the spray or the paste, so nipping tastes bad.
- Some people have had good luck with either pushing a finger into the ferret's mouth (sideways, behind the back teeth) or holding the mouth open from behind (being careful not to choke the ferret) immediately after a bite. Most ferrets find either of these uncomfortable, and it associates the unpleasant feeling with the taste of finger.
- If you need the ferret to let go, try covering both his nostrils with your fingers. If he still hangs on, don't keep them there long, though.
- If the ferret isn't one of those who absolutely hate to be scruffed, that can help. You might also shake the ferret gently by the scruff, or drag him along the floor while you hiss. Both these mimic the way mother ferrets reprimand their kits. Obviously, don't be so rough that you hurt him. You can also cover his face with your hand, which he probably won't like.

## THE CURRENCY CORNER: WORDS FROM THE TREASURER

Treasurer Report 9/15/2007: We have \$4069.08 in the bank, with outstanding expenses of \$3320.90 and deposits of \$2108.59. The outstanding expenses are to vets for ferret care.



### CLEAN THAT LITTER BOX

Have you ever had to use an outhouse, a real one in the woods or near a cabin or in a park, and the pile of solid matter in it was so high that you found it so disgusting you would rather use the bushes?

Well, that's just how our dear little ferrets think about their litter boxes. While they are latrine animals, using the same area for their duties, they also appreciate a clean toilet but not so clean that it doesn't smell right.

In order to keep the litter box fairly fresh it should be scooped of solid waste every day, and the litter refreshed by removing the wet areas by scooping or sifting. The success of this process depends on what you are using for litter, and what kind of scoop you have. I find the scoop offered by Feline Pine to be the finest for getting into the corners of litter pans, whether they are cat pans or the triangles (which the ferrets don't use so I don't). This scoop is free except for \$3 S&H and can be had by sending a check for that amount to Nature's Earth Products, Inc.

2200 N Florida Mango Rd, 2nd floor  
West Palm Beach FL 33409

No proof of purchase is necessary; just write a short note with your name and address. You can order any amount you need. When the scoop gets crusty with poop soak it in the toilet or basin of water and rinse it off. A clean scoop works better to get under the piles in the corners.



Those of you who use some type of wood pellets can recycle the whole pellets while getting rid of the stuff that's been wet by sifting out the resulting sawdust. Find some kind of colander or other kitchen item with holes of the size that the pellets won't fall through. I have used a plastic flatware tray and a perforated deep fry pan for the smaller diameter Feline Pine, while for the wood stove pellets I mostly use a tray with 1/4" hardware cloth for my main sifter. I've also used a round craft paper box with the bottom cut out and a circle of hardware cloth taped to it.

The resulting sawdust should be collected in some sort of tray, box or bag and can be thrown out in the trash or used carefully as a mulch. It is very high in nitrogen and will burn roots.

If you use some other type of litter, such as processed paper or Yesterday's News pellets, the paper soaks up and retains the urine. At least scoop out the poop and the wet areas and replace with fresh material daily. Same goes for the clumping litters, whether clay-based (not recommended), wheat or corn. Never use cedar bedding in any form; it can be toxic to ferrets.

Just as important as scooping is keeping the litter pan itself clean. Through trial and error I have settled upon using Huggies Baby Wipes to clean the corners if they aren't very badly soiled. I tried several other brands and keep coming back to Huggies. They are thick and strong, come in lightly scented and natural styles. If the soil is worse go ahead and set it in the sink for soaking, then scrub with a non-scratching scrubber such as nylon net or /white/ dish scrubber. A squirt of Clorox Cleanup will help clean and sanitize.

Even if you wash the pans there is still enough scent left from their old "business" so they will smell where the place is to go. Daily care of the pans will make it easier to clean, rather than having to deal with a large buildup that the ferrets are avoiding anyway.

***"Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing."***

Albert Schweitzer



## Annual Report



PO Box 594  
Vail, AZ, 85641

## BALANCE SHEET 2006-7

## Assets

## Current Assets

Checking Account	5277.19
Petty Cash	50.00
Savings Account	<u>0.00</u>
	5327.19

## Adoptable Ferrets

14 young at 50/ea	700.00
10 old with health problems	<u>245.00</u>
	945.00

## Other Current Assets

cages	2320.00
other sellable items	<u>1326.50</u>
	3646.60

**TOTAL ASSETS** **9918.69**

## Liabilities

## Outstanding Vet bills

Desert Hills Balance	0.00
Bear Canyon Pet Clinic	0.00
Valley Animal Hospital	<u>0.00</u>
	<b>0.00</b>

FY Beginning Balance	2175.35
FY Ending Balance	<u>5277.19</u>
<b>TOTAL profit/loss</b>	<b>3101.84</b>



PO Box 594  
 Vail, AZ, 85641  
**PROFIT & LOSS 2006-7**

If you would like to make a donation or help with volunteering please contact Carol at 520-762-5568 or Robin at 520-740-1707.

**Income**

Adoptions	2645.00
Boarding	125.00
Shot Clinics	700.00
Membership	120.00
Donations	3653.70
Ferret Supply Sales	<u>2263.75</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>9457.45</b>

**Expenses**

**Vet bills**

Dr. Strickland	1097.63
Desert Hills Vet Clinic	270.00
Bear Canyon Pet Clinic	1740.61
Valley Animal Hospital	<u>364.53</u>
	<b>3472.77</b>

**Other Expenses**

Purchase of sale items	512.45
Foundation Group	500.00
US Treasury	750.00
Donation to Ohio Ferret Rescue	125.00
Refunds to Volunteers for expenses	815.39
Miscellaneous expenses	<u>180.00</u>
	<b>2882.84</b>

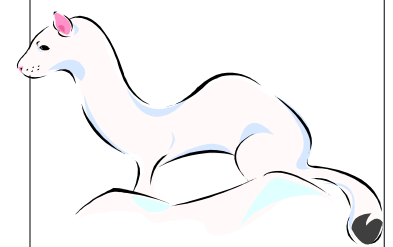
**TOTAL EXPENSES 6355.61**

**NET INCOME 3101.84**

Pastiche Modern Eatery  
 3025 North Campbell Avenue  
 Tucson, AZ 85719-2877  
 +1 520 325 3333  
 Open Hours 11:30a-midnight M-F, 4:30p-midnight Sa & Su  
<http://www.pasticheme.com/>

**October 2007:**

**"Philanthropy With Phla-vor"**  
 For the entire months of June and October, Pastiche will donate 5% of your check to the charity of your choice. It's that simple. *"Treat yourself while treating others!"*



**We're on the Web**  
**www.ferretfriends.org**

**Board of Directors:**

**President:**

Carol Owens  
762-5568

**Vice-President:**

OPEN

**Secretary:**

Randy Owens  
762-5568

**Treasurer:**

Dian Curran  
762-9710

**Board Members:**

Larisa Lauber  
270-1328

Jo Ann McBride  
820-2374

Ed Radek  
624-0221

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

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

**Board Member Meetings** – Board meetings happen every other month on the third Saturday at 1:30 PM, contact 762-5568 for location.

**Chicken Gravy** – We are having a Chicken Gravy class. If you would like to attend or have questions please call Michelle at 664-1077 or Carol at 762-5568. You can also email ferretfriendsoftucson@yahoo.com for information or answers.

**Donations** – Please visit Pastiche in the months of June and Oct. and let them know you would like to donate part of your check to Ferret Friends Inc. To see more info on Pastiche see page 3.

**Vaccination Clinic** –

We will be having a vaccination clinic on November 3 2007; for more details call Carol Owens at 762-5568 or visit the website.

**Ferret Friends Store** –

We are now selling cages and other items at the online store. Please look at the webpage for more info.

**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>.

**PETCO Adoption Partners** – Ferret Friend Representatives have been taking ferrets and our newly made adoption books to local Petco's. To find out when and where please contact Larisa at 520-270-1328 or Jo Ann at 520-820-2374.

To learn more about PETCO Adoption Partners go to:  
[http://www.petco.com/petco\\_Page\\_PC\\_petadoptions\\_home\\_Nav\\_313.aspx](http://www.petco.com/petco_Page_PC_petadoptions_home_Nav_313.aspx)

**3rd Annual Ginny Childs' memorial Picnic** – November 17 at Reid park, Ramada 5 from 12–4 PM. The board meeting for November will take place here.

Questions?  
Contact Michelle S. at  
Phone: 520-664-1077  
Or email:  
[ferretfriendsoftucson@yahoo.com](mailto:ferretfriendsoftucson@yahoo.com)

