

## Support needed for N.Y.C. ferret legalization

New York City ferret legalization organizers have launched a letter writing campaign to speed consideration of Intro 627, which would legalize in N.Y.C. the ownership of domesticated ferrets that have been vaccinated against rabies and canine distemper virus and that have been spayed or neutered.

Ferret ownership was outlawed in the city on June 29 by the four-member Board of Health (which represents the city's Department of Health) in the name of "public safety" [A.F.R. 1999;10(5):3].

Council Member Kathryn Freed announced Intro 627 on September 9 and then held a press conference in front of the Department of Health building. Attending the press conference were some celebrities from the ferret community including Marc Morrone, a frequent guest with his ferret Splash on the television show *Martha Stewart Living*; Mary and Eric Shefferman, publishers of *Modern Ferret Magazine*; Scott MacKenzie, president of the Legion of

Superferrets of New York; and Gary Kaskel, informal spokesperson for N.Y.C.'s ferret owners and recently seen with his ferret Ginger on a Cable News Network report about hammocks.

No ferrets were able to attend the press conference because approximately 10 city police officers were on hand to confiscate the recently prohibited pets.

To urge the N.Y.C. City Council to schedule a public hearing for Intro 627, New York State residents should write Peter F. Vallone  
Speaker for the City Council  
22-45 31st Street  
Astoria, NY 11105

Victor L. Robles, Chair  
City Council Health Committee  
815 Broadway (Rm 515)  
Brooklyn, NY 11206

It is important to note that it was the Department of Health and not the City Council Health Committee that enacted

the recent ban on ferret ownership.

Copies of these letters can be sent to Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dr. Neal L. Cohen, MD  
Commissioner of Health  
The Department of Health  
125 Worth Street  
New York, NY 10013

Flyers and wallet-sized cards addressing the ban are available to veterinarians for their clients from Lori Malizia at [nycferrets@aol.com](mailto:nycferrets@aol.com). Up-to-date information about Intro 627 can be found at <http://members.aol.com/NYCFerrets>. City organizers are also looking for volunteers to distribute these flyers and cards to city pet stores and veterinary offices and hospitals.

*Adapted with permission from <http://members.aol.com/NYCFerrets> (accessed November 2, 1999).*

## Corrections

In the September/October issue, Pat Andrews was incorrectly identified as being from Philadelphia, Pa. Pat is from Pittsburgh, Pa.

Pat wrote about keeping a cage interesting. She also would be happy to share her experiences with orangutans and can be reached by e-mail at [pat@econlit.org](mailto:pat@econlit.org).

Also in that issue, the e-mail address for The Ferrets of Pet Pals Placement and Referral Service in Springfield, Va., was listed incorrectly. Director Pam Troutman can be reached at either [STARFerret@aol.com](mailto:STARFerret@aol.com) or [STARFerret@aol.com](mailto:STARFerret@aol.com).

### How Ferrets are Preparing for Y2K

- ❖ Drying litter box misses for burnable fuel source.
- ❖ Withdrawing extra toys from safe deposits and stashing them under the mattress.
- ❖ Stockpiling food for inevitable breakdown in the high tech kibble manufacturing sector.
- ❖ Digging bomb shelters in the sofa cushions.
- ❖ Loading poofers to defend homes against marauding feral cats.
- ❖ Tube racing at midnight to hone night vision for unexpected black outs.
- ❖ Forgoing the Dookin' New Year's Eve celebration with Dick Clark and sleeping through the date change. Maybe everything will be fixed when they wake up.