

American Ferret Association, Inc. (AFA)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AMERICAN FERRET ASSOCIATION STATEMENT REGARDING THE JANUARY 22nd INCIDENT IN DARBY BOROUGH, PENNSYLVANIA

FREDERICK, MD, January 24th, 2015 – The American Ferret Association (AFA), on behalf of its members and the entire ferret-owning community, extends its sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the family of the Darby Borough, PA infant who sustained severe injuries on Thursday afternoon after being left alone with ferrets and other animals in the house, as well as to all of those who were touched by this event.

At present, the details are unknown as to how this family's ferrets and other pets were treated and why they acted as alleged by the media. It is unclear whether the ferrets had a secure cage or not as it was observed from news videos that a nylon playpen was present. The AFA recommends that ferrets be housed in a secure, chew-proof cage designed specifically for ferrets. Ferrets in multi-pet homes and homes with young children should always have a safe, secure cage for the safety of ferrets, humans, and other pets alike.

Under no circumstances should an infant or small child ever be left unsupervised for any amount of time in the same room as a ferret or other pet, whether caged or not. In addition, it is important to remember that, while abused or mistreated ferrets may, on very rare occasions, become aggressive, this is **not** characteristic of ferret behavior. Ferrets are sweet, docile, loving companion animals that are known to interact very well with small children with proper supervision. To learn more about ferrets as pets and interactions between ferrets and children, visit the AFA web site at **www.ferret.org**.

Founded in 1991, the **American Ferret Association** is a nationwide, all-volunteer, not-for-profit, tax-exempt membership organization that promotes the domestic ferret as a companion animal; protects ferrets from mistreatment, discriminatory legislation, and overpopulation; and provides information, breeding and showing standards, as well as funding for ferret shelters and veterinary research.

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