

Showing Your Ferret 101

All ferrets are show ferrets!

Welcome!

Attending a ferret show can be both a fun and an educational experience. The judging process and your ring results will help you learn about optimal ferret health and maintenance. Meeting with ferret owners from around the world, you'll have a chance to "compare notes" and learn the latest news, tips, and tricks. Shows provide an opportunity to discover local and regional shelters, breeders, clubs, and other organizations. You'll have a chance to buy products you can't find elsewhere and support ferret organizations in the process.

Can I show my ferret?

Yes! Everyone is welcome to attend AFA shows, and we encourage you to show your ferret. Ferrets do not need to have any particular background or pedigree to show (and win!). Whether your ferret came from a pet shop, private breeder, or shelter, your ferret can "be all he can be," regardless of background.

You are responsible for the health of your ferret, so out of consideration for all other attendees and their ferrets, **PLEASE DO NOT BRING A SICK FERRET TO THE SHOW.** Shows are very stressful and you want your ferret to be able to handle the stress. Be especially cognizant that even though the age limit has been raised to 6 ½, please don't bring a senior ferret unless he/she is in really good health.

At least two weeks prior to the show

All ferrets in the show hall **MUST** have proof of a current rabies and canine distemper vaccination. Titers are acceptable in lieu of a distemper vaccination. Ferrets **MUST** also have a current ADV test within one year of the show date. ADV testing must be done by the Blue Cross Animal Hospital CEP test. Information on ADV testing can be found here http://www.ferret.org/read/CEP_testing.html

Three days prior to the show

Trim nails: By trimming nails 3 days before the show, the nails are not as sharp and will be less likely to scratch the judges' arms. Trim about 1/8 inch from the quick and make sure to do all 4 paws.

Clean Teeth: Brush teeth with a soft toothbrush and cat toothpaste. This will soften the tarter and make it easier to scrape if scraping is necessary. A little tarter is acceptable but if your ferret's teeth need scraping and you are uncomfortable doing this, please see another show exhibitor to help you clean teeth.

Clean ears: Clean ears of any debris. You will be doing this again so the main concern is if there is considerable debris and staining around ears.

Night before the show

Give your ferret a bath. Bluing shampoo is good for light colored ferrets to help take some of the yellowing out of their coat. Use a cream rinse if your ferret's coat is dry or coarse. Clean ears again.

Cage and judging carrier setup

You will need to set up a judging carrier with a litter box and litter in it for judging. The litter box needs to be secured in the carrier. Use a sleep sack or piece of material for bedding – **do not use a hammock**. Do not put a water bottle on the carrier.

Your ferret can be brought into the show hall in a carrier but you will want to make sure the litter box is clean, take down the hammock and remove the water and food bowl if this carrier will also be used for judging.

A small cage, large enough for a hammock, litter box, food bowl and water bottle is fine. If you have more than one ferret, a larger cage might be good. A 24" x 18" x 18" is big enough for two or three ferrets.

Show Day!

Bring your ferret, cage and judging carrier along with his/her paperwork with you. At check-in you will pick up your show packet information. Find a place in the exhibitor area and set up. Your carrier can go on the floor under the table and cage on top the table. The show book has the schedule and all ferrets entered in the show listed by championship and specialty. In the packet will be some tags with your ferret's entry number on it. Be sure to pick up a fastener at check in to secure your entry number to your judging carrier.

Title Class Judging

Entrants in the title classes will be judged by each of the licensed judges (3 total). When your class gets called (Adolescent, Alter, Breeder, Companion): Wake your ferret up and let him/her go to the restroom. At that time you will want to clean their ears again. Use water for their ears as it does not irritate. You can spray them with a coat conditioner (like FerretSheen). Fluff up with a towel and brush them. Make sure feet and ears are clean. You can also spray a cloth with the coat conditioner and wipe around the ears, feet and bottom (or use a pet or baby wipe).

Attach the entry number that identifies the ferret to be judged to the judging carrier. When your number gets called place your ferret in a carrier and go to the judging area. Place your carrier on the drop-off table. A judging assistant will place

your carrier in the judging area behind the judges. At that time you can take a seat and watch them be judged. Please don't stand up close to the judging tables since the judges are working and should not be disturbed at this time.

Please don't point out that the ferret they are judging is yours. Judging carriers are used to make sure the judging is impartial and anonymous.

Once all judges have seen your ferret, he/she will be returned to the carrier and the carrier will be moved to a pick up area. There should be 3 colored score tickets on your carrier with comments and your ferret's score. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask the judge(s) at the END of the judging for that class.

Since every ferret gets judged by 3 different judges you have the possibility of getting 3 rosette ribbons and a trophy from each judge. After all ferrets in the class have been judged, an announcement will be made and the ribbons, trophies, best in class and best opposite in class will be awarded.

Specialty Class Judging

Follow the cleaning and potty break same as with title class. You can take your ferret up and hand them to the judge when they call their number or use a judging carrier.

If taking up without a carrier, when they call the specialty, take your ferret and entry number up with you. When your number is called, hand your ferret to the judge. Then sit down and watch the judging. The judge will call your number when he/she is done, so don't wander off. You may or may not receive a score card from the specialty classes.

After all the ferrets are judged in that specialty, the participants will be called back up and rosettes and a trophy will be awarded.

Title Classes:

Adolescent	intact or later alter	16 weeks to 1 year
Alter	altered after 12 weeks old	1 year to 6.5 years old
Breeder	intact (breedable)	1 year to 6.5 years old
Companion	pet store/early alter	16 weeks to 6.5 years

Specialty Classes:

Albino/Dark-Eyed White	Passport Required
Black Mitt/Black Roan Mitt	Point
Black Sable	Roan
Blaze/Mutt/Panda	Sable
Champagne	Shelter
Chocolate	Super Senior
Mitt	Invitational