The American Ferret Association, Inc.

Management of the Ferret for Veterinary Professionals

A Comprehensive Veterinary Symposium

November 8, 2003

Quality Suites
3 Research Court
Rockville, Maryland

The American Ferret Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

Purpose

The American Ferret Association is an organization devoted to the health and welfare of ferrets. We want our veterinarians to give the best care and know the most about these special animals. That’s why we are sponsoring this comprehensive veterinary symposium with the following goals in mind:

To help veterinarians meet the growing demand for quality ferret care.

To encourage new practitioners to learn more about ferrets.

To provide continuing education for experienced ferret veterinarians.

This comprehensive one-day symposium is a must for those who are treating ferrets or who plan to treat ferrets in their practices. There are an estimated 10 million ferrets in the U.S. today, the third most popular interactive companion animal. Veterinarians, veterinary technicians, students and allied health professionals will be interested in the range of topics as well as the in-depth panel discussions that will address the practitioner’s questions about this fascinating carnivore species. Learn everything from the basics to cutting edge technology. Find out about new approaches to diagnosis, treatment and prevention. Participate in discussions on various ways of treating malignancies in ferrets.

Speaker Faculty

Mark Finkler, DVM – Conference Chair
A private practitioner with over 20 years of clinical experience treating ferrets. He also serves as an Adjunct Professor at the VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine where he teaches a course on ferret medicine and surgery.

Sandra Kudrak, DVM, DABVP – Conference Co-Chair
A board certified practitioner who owns her own practice in Chirnside, Maine. She has published several articles in lay publications such as Ferrets USA, as well as the American Ferret Report (the official newsletter of the American Ferret Association, Inc.). She is “owned” by a dozen ferrets!

David Crum, DVM
An exotics specialist who is practicing at the Eastern Exotics Veterinary Clinic in Fairfax, VA.

Scott L. Fausel, VMD
A private practitioner who specializes in ferret medicine. Dr. Weiss owns his own practice in Bethesda, Maryland, where he treats over 1000 ferrets annually. He conducts clinical studies in his practice and has published several peer-reviewed articles on the surgical and medical management of endocrine disease in ferrets.

Charles Weiss, DVM
A board certified practitioner who owns her own practice in Orrington, Maine. She has published several articles in lay publications such as Ferret Report (the official newsletter of the American Ferret Association, Inc.). She is “owned” by a dozen ferrets!

Bruce Williams, DVM, Diplomate ACVP
Currently chairs the Department of Telemedicine at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, DC. A well known researcher, author and lecturer, he has published numerous scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals and is known internationally for his expertise in ferret pathology.

This Symposium is dedicated to the memory of Pamela Slack, DVM, who died in an airplane accident on May 4, 1999. As an AFA professional member Dr. Slack chaired several AFA veterinary symposiums and practiced Exotic Medicine at the Alexandria Animal Hospital in Alexandria, Virginia. She owned many ferrets and was a savior to many more.
Session One:

**Adrenocortical Disease Updates.** Once considered a rare disease, ACC outbreaks have occurred in various areas of the country. The classic form appears as a chronic wasting disease. The more acute, acute form has recently emerged. A discussion of this disease, along with newer testing methods, will be discussed.

**Preventive Medicine Updates.** A review of current recommended regimens regarding routine preventive care for pet ferrets will be presented. A discussion of the new recombinant canine distemper vaccine will be included.

**The Diarrhea Dilemma.** Anyone who sees any number of ferrets in practice will certainly be familiar with the frustrating frequency of diarrhea in the ferret. Unfortunately, many acute cases of diarrhea can develop into chronic disease. This discussion will focus on the diagnosis of the underlying cause of diarrhea, and treatment strategies. The pathological causes of chronic diarrhea will also be examined.

Session Two:

**Oncology.** Carcinomas are one of the most common presentations associated with the pet ferret. The common (and not so common) cancers will be discussed – including hypothesis of the underlying basis of disease, diagnosis, and treatment strategies.

**Ultrasonography.** Ultrasound is now a familiar modality in dog and cat practice – but not as currently utilized in ferret medicine. Find out how you can add ultrasound to your armamentarium to diagnose everything from adenoma disease to cardiac disease!

Session Three:

**Adrenal Disease - Medical vs Surgical Therapy.** Adrenal cortical disease is probably the most common disease presented to ferret practitioners. This disease affects ferrets of all ages and has many clinical presentations and sequelae. The clinical severity of the disease can simply be cosmetically threatened. The clinician has a variety of choices for therapy and must consider many factors in choosing a therapeutic approach. Clinical experience and research results will be discussed with the hope of helping the practitioner decide between medical and surgical therapies.

**Insulinomas - Medical vs Surgical Therapy.** With a majority of older ferrets developing insulinomas, private practitioners are frequently called upon to treat these hypoglycemic patients. Various medical and surgical therapies will be presented. Based on years of clinical study, the advantages, disadvantages, and prognosis of these therapies are becoming better understood. This session will provide a wealth of information for veterinarians.

**Case Studies.** The symposium will conclude with a panel discussion of selected cases referred by the audience. An open question and answer period will be available as well.

*Information on case study submission can be found on our website at www.ferret.org and will also be included in your registration confirmation. If you have questions, please contact us at afa@ferret.org.*

**Registration Form**

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AFA membership includes bimonthly newsletter, product, health and legislative updates.

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Donations make it possible to continue to bring you future programs. Donations may be tax deductible for those who itemize.

**Total: $**

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