



Date: July 17, 2026

Subject: American Ferret Association (AFA) Statement: Marshall BioResources/Marshall Farms, Responsible Breeding, Veterinary Care, and Welfare Standards

Status: Official Statement from the AFA Governing Board and AFA Board of Directors

The AFA believes that any person, breeder, business, shelter, rescue, laboratory, or facility responsible for ferrets has an obligation to meet high standards of humane care. This includes responsible breeding practices, enrichment activities, proper nutrition, appropriate housing, veterinary oversight, disease prevention, vaccination protocols, and thoughtful decisions regarding spaying, neutering, and other medical procedures.

As the largest producer of domesticated ferrets, Marshall plays a significant role in the lives of ferrets and ferret owners. Many ferrets in the United States trace their origins to Marshall, and many families, shelters, rescues, veterinarians, and educators have longstanding experience with Marshall ferrets. AFA believes this reality makes constructive engagement especially important.

AFA's role is to advocate for the welfare of domesticated ferrets. We believe all breeding programs should be guided by current veterinary medical support, including exotic mammal veterinary guidance on appropriate age for spay/neuter, vaccination schedules, preventive care, genetic health, early-life handling, and long-term well-being. This advocacy includes ensuring breeder alignment with AFA-developed breeding standards.

AFA believes meaningful welfare improvements are more likely when stakeholders are willing to communicate. We are interested in building a more positive, collaborative relationship with Marshall and other ferret-related stakeholders to promote best practices, improve education, and support the health and well-being of domesticated ferrets.

AFA can disagree with or raise concerns about specific practices while still pursuing respectful dialogue. Our priority is not conflict for its own sake. Our priority is better care, better information, and better outcomes for ferrets.

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AFA Governing Board and AFA Board of Directors