



Date: July 17, 2026

Subject: American Ferret Association (AFA) Statement: Marshall Ferret Food Availability and Retailer Decisions

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

The AFA is aware of community concerns regarding the availability of Marshall ferret food through Chewy and related public discussion about whether Chewy is discontinuing or “boycotting” Marshall Farms products. AFA understands why this issue matters to ferret owners. Many ferrets eat Marshall food, and sudden changes in diet can be stressful for both ferrets and their caregivers. For many owners, especially those caring for older ferrets, medically fragile ferrets, shelter ferrets, or picky eaters, product availability is not a political issue; it is a practical animal-care concern.

At this time, AFA encourages the ferret community to remain calm, avoid speculation, and focus on ensuring ferrets continue to receive appropriate nutrition. AFA does not believe ferret owners should be shamed for feeding food that their ferrets tolerate, rely on, or were raised on. Nutrition decisions should be made based on the needs of the individual ferret, veterinary advice, product availability, and the owner’s ability to provide consistent care. For ferret owners who are unable to obtain their usual food, AFA recommends avoiding abrupt diet changes whenever possible. If a transition becomes necessary, owners should consult a ferret-knowledgeable veterinarian and transition gradually when medically appropriate.

AFA supports consumer choice, informed decision-making, and respectful discussion. We also encourage retailers, manufacturers, and community members to recognize that product access can directly affect ferret welfare. Regardless of individual views about Marshall, ferrets should not be placed at risk because owners are frightened, shamed, or unable to access familiar food.

Media & Inquiry Contact: afa@ferret.org

AFA Governing Board and AFA Board of Directors