



**Date:** July 17, 2026

**Subject:** American Ferret Association (AFA) Statement: Marshall BioResources, Ferrets Used in Research, and Animal Testing

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

The AFA's mission is to promote, protect, and provide for the domesticated ferret. That mission guides our position on all issues involving ferrets, including the difficult and emotional topic of ferrets used in research.

AFA recognizes that many members of the ferret community are deeply troubled by the use of ferrets in animal testing. We share the belief that ferrets are intelligent, social, sentient animals deserving of humane care, respect, and protection. As an organization devoted to domesticated ferrets, AFA supports continued movement toward scientifically valid alternatives to animal testing wherever possible and appropriate.

At the same time, AFA believes that productive change is most likely to occur through informed advocacy, transparency, collaboration, and a clear focus on ferret welfare. Public concern about the use of ferrets in research, which the AFA does not condone, should not become personal attacks, speculation, or hostility that makes meaningful dialogue more difficult. We understand that allegations of misconduct are upsetting, but we believe the most constructive path forward is one that keeps ferrets' best interests at the center. AFA does not condone unnecessary suffering of any ferret. We support strong welfare standards, appropriate veterinary oversight, humane handling, responsible housing, and accountability for any facility or institution that breeds, houses, transports, or uses ferrets.

As a result, AFA is committed to exploring opportunities for constructive communication with stakeholders, including Marshall BioResources, veterinary professionals, animal welfare experts, and the broader ferret community. Our goal is not to inflame division, but to advocate for better outcomes for ferrets.

**Media & Inquiry Contact:** [afa@ferret.org](mailto:afa@ferret.org)

AFA Governing Board and AFA Board of Directors