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ALEUTIAN MINK DISEASE **A Hidden Danger to Your Ferret**

What is Aleutian Mink Disease Virus?

Aleutian Mink Disease Virus, or ADV, is a type of parvovirus that infects mink, ferrets, raccoons, skunks, and possibly other Mustelidae. Currently, there is no evidence that it can infect other mammals outside the Mustelidae family, such as cats or dogs, though. Although at one time there may have been only one ADV virus, it is now thought that there are different ADV viruses that are species specific. Because it is a parvovirus, it is very hardy, and can live outside the body of a host for a long time. To kill the virus, you must use a parvocide or a 10% bleach solution within 30 minutes of contact time.

Full article can be found at http://www.ferret.org/pdfs/health/ADV_Hidden_Danger.pdf

CARDIAC DISEASE IN THE FERRET

Katrina D. Ramsell, PhD, DVM

Cardiac (heart) disease is relatively common in many species, including pet ferrets. In ferrets, heart disease is usually associated with electrical disturbances, aberrations in the heart muscle (cardiomyopathy), and sometimes abnormalities of the heart valves. Heart problems arise less commonly from parasites (e.g. heartworm) and rarely from congenital defects.

Full article can be found at
http://www.ferret.org/pdfs/health/Cardiac_Disease_in_the_Ferret.pdf

DISSEMINATED IDIOPATHIC MYOSITIS (DIM) IN FERRETS **(aka "POLYMYOSITIS")**

Disseminated Idiopathic Myositis (DIM) (aka "Polymyositis") is a "new" disease in pet ferrets. It is a disease that results in a severe inflammatory condition that primarily affects muscles (myositis). Ferret owners and veterinarians are frustrated with DIM. Although research on the disease has been ongoing since it was first described in 2003, the cause of DIM is still unknown and the disease process is poorly understood. DIM is suspected when a ferret exhibits certain clinical signs and has abnormal blood values that are consistent with the disease. There have been over 85 suspected cases with approximately half having been confirmed with histopathology.

Full article can be found at http://www.ferret.org/pdfs/health/AFA_DIM_Alert.pdf