



American Ferret Association, Inc.

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Welcome to the American Ferret Association, Inc!

AFA History

In 1987 a small group of ferret owners created a ferret club in Montgomery County, Maryland. As the club expanded, members began to organize ferrets shows, "fun matches", and educational events. To reflect its growth, a new charter was written in 1990, and the club became the Mid-Atlantic Ferret Association.

By this time, the domestic ferret had become the third most popular interactive household pet in the USA. People from all over the country were eager to get more information about ferrets. It became apparent that yet another change was required to meet the needs of ferret owners everywhere. The organization adopted a national focus and became the American Ferret Association (AFA) on January 1, 1991. Following this change, the AFA was incorporated in the State of Maryland in April 1992 and received 501(c)(3) status in August of 1992.

The AFA has gone through many changes over the years but we are continuing to expand our services and programs. Our plans include the development of seminars and educational material on ferrets, expanding our ferret show schedule, encouraging continuing education programs for ferret veterinarians, and providing support to the Black-Footed Ferret Recovery Program.

AFA's Goals

PROMOTE the domestic ferret as a companion animal through public education such as newsletters, legislative activity, and ferret shows.

PROTECT the domestic ferret against anti-ferret legislation, mistreatment, unsound breeding practices, and overpopulation, needless scientific research, and any practice deemed to lower the health standards or survivability of ferrets.

PROVIDE constant and up-to-date information on veterinarians, rescue shelters, legislative activities, medical developments, and other information of interest to ferret fanciers everywhere.

Current AFA Programs

Legislative Activities: Provide data, resources, and support for ferret supporters working toward legislation that will protect the domestic ferret and the rights of ferret owners.

Medical and Veterinary Library: The AFA medical library contains articles and other material on ferret health, vaccination statistics, and related topics. The library has been compiled over many years and currently contains over 310 reference items.

Ferret Show System: AFA trains, licenses, and provides continuing education for ferret judges, sanctions ferret shows nationwide, and maintains a database of points and titles awarded at AFA-sanctioned shows.

Breeding Standards and Practices: AFA provides education and support for ferret breeders throughout the USA and overseas to encourage sound breeding and husbandry practices.

Shelter Network: AFA maintains a national database of private ferret shelters. The shelter listed is used to provide referrals for individuals who wish to find a local ferret shelter. AFA has published the Shelter Guidelines Handbook to provide information to those establishing a ferret shelter.

AFA Web Page: The web page can be found at <http://www.ferret.org>. It contains items such as medical alerts, the shelter listing, and information on AFA shows and events.