

How to Train Your Ferret!

“Bandit? Come here Bandit!” a ferret calls, to no response. Maybe Bandit, the ferret, is asleep? Nope, scratching noises can be heard. Second call... no response. Ferret walks down the hall, and there is Bandit, frantically digging the carpet outside the closet door. He briefly looks up as he hears his name called again, but goes back to digging as if no one is even around. Sigh!



Despite this all too familiar scenario, ferrets' behavior CAN be managed with patience and consistent training. Complying with human expectations like proper pottying, “no scratch,” “no bite!” and “The Basics,” are all possible. Follow the links below to learn more about “The Basics,” and “Advanced Training for Ferrets”

The Basics

One of the things that make ferrets so loveable is their stereotypical behavior... their little mannerisms and habits can be so endearing. Then again, some are not... pooping in random corners of the house or right inside a door, nipping and scratching are all behaviors every ferret would like to eliminate. Training your ferret will not only help with annoying or negative behaviors, but will also provide quality bonding time and enrichment that by themselves, often help in eliminating unwanted behaviors. Often, negative behaviors often result from boredom. You will find that your ferret enjoys learning proper behaviors and even tricks.

A very important consideration when training your ferret is that you know your ferret best. You can make decisions over which of the techniques and methods discussed and shown will work based on your ferret's age, health, prior experiences and state of readiness. There are optimal times for training that may vary from ferret to ferret. Some may be more focused after sleeping while training for others may be most effective when they are slightly less energetic and more focused. The use of treats is another variable to reflect on based on your knowledge of your ferret. Just remember that one of the most important training guidelines you can follow is to remain positive and patient.

How can you train your ferret? Watch the videos below, featuring Joey the Trained Ferret and trainer Courtnie Gregory. Be sure to understand that training your ferret takes practice and consistency. You will not see change over night, but the training process is a way to bond with your ferret while improving its behavior or even teaching it fun tricks.

Ferret Training 101 - The Basics

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGFroabITtA&list=PL4tGF9iMbVPZ7gLA-GTc6x0ZN7Sww9VTY>

Ferret Training 103 – Litter Box Training

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRbRZmjM0_Q&list=PL4tGF9iMbVPZ7gLA-GTc6x0ZN7Sww9VTY

How Can I Get My Ferret to Stop Digging?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YaL_oVjL2ns

Ferret Training 104: Teaching your ferret not to bite

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBs763GWr5s>



Ferret Training 105: Leash Training

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWd_hemVcMA

A very important consideration when walking your ferret on a leash is safety. Choose a place for a walk that is free of gardening chemicals or pesticides and consider other animals that may be present that can impact your ferret. To learn more about walking your ferret and other enrichment ideas, check out this information on the American Ferret Association's web site - <http://www.ferret.org/pdfs/education/fitness.pdf>

Ferret Training 205: Teaching Your Ferret to Come When Called

https://youtu.be/XQ-Cbv2Z4j0?list=PL4tGF9iMbVPZaHMmMLbaeEcxJyDy_xWI

Advanced Training for Ferrets

Ferrets are intelligent and capable of learning more than just the basics. Learn all about the ways to train your ferret to “high five,” touch an object or even bowl and play a piano from the talented Joey.

How to Train Your Ferret – Beginner Tricks

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4tGF9iMbVPZaHMmMLbaeEcxJyDy_xWI

- **Ferret Training 201: Teaching Your Ferret to Stand**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x471pHS08TY&list=PL4tGF9iMbVPZaHMmMLbaeEcxJyDy_xWI
- **Ferret Training 202: How to Teach Your Ferret to Roll Over**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4V5H40ZtAQ&index=2&list=PL4tGF9iMbVPZaHMmMLbaeEcxJyDy_xWI

How to Train Your Ferret – Advanced Tricks

- **Ferret Training 301: Teaching Your Ferret to High 5**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gmTGNJHTUg&list=PL4tGF9iMbVPbciFyir5rB7-TTsYHBD1dV>
- **Ferret Training 302: Teaching a Ferret to Stay**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYO5Rt0uBTU>
- **Picking Up an Object**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZjaa4sch5Q>

Joey has so many amazing tricks. This is a video devoted to his most special ones
<https://youtu.be/jiUpv4JkYx0>

There are many other videos on Joey the Trained Ferret's You Tube channel. Be sure to take a look
www.youtube.com/JoeyTheTrainedFerret

Joey also has a Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/JoeyTheTrainedFerret
Joey's ferrent, Courtnie Gregory, has been training Joey since he was 3 months old. Joey is from Ground Effects Ferretry (GFX) and was born on St. Patrick's Day, 2012. To go along with the Irish theme, Joey's middle name is Finnegan. Courtnie earned her bachelor's degree in psychology. Her favorite subject had always been animal behavior and training. She trained all of her family's dogs growing up and her first ferret, Eddie. Eddie was deaf but was still trained to do several tricks. In her spare time, Courtnie enjoys baking, exercising and trips to the beach. When Joey is not asleep in his hammock, he enjoys eating as messily as possible, hiding socks and doing tricks of course.

