

Write a Haiku About Your Ferret!

One reason so many ferret owners choose these wonderful animals as companions is their size. They are small and therefore exceptional pets for smaller spaces but maintain large personalities and amazing energy levels! So, when thinking small, but with a large and lasting impact, the form of poetry known as *haiku* comes to mind.



Facts about Haiku

Haiku, or "俳句" as written in Japanese, are traditional, short poems about the natural world. Haiku are often written as the putting together of two ideas or images, usually occurring in everyday life. In the original Japanese, the verse consists of 17 *morae* (count of phonetic sounds) only. No more, no less. Although, exceptions are allowed in few cases, those 17 *morae* must form 3 parts:

The first part, called *Hokku*, must contain 5 *morae*.

The second, 7 *morae*.

And, the last, 5 *morae* again.

Other important considerations when writing a haiku are that the *Hokku* verse must have one *Kigo*, or a seasonal sentence that marks the verse's relation to certain season of the year. The *Hokku*, should also have a certain discontinuity, called *Kire*, to the remainder of the verse, either in sound, or in its meaning. And, it is said that the poet should refrain from expressing his or her personal ideas or affectations. One must show what he or she sees, hears or feels without any alteration.

Many believe this form of poetry is best written with a language like Japanese which has ideograms (graphic symbols for an idea or concept), making it possible to include a lot of ideas in very short sentences. Nonetheless, the verse has migrated out of Japan and has become a popular form of poetic expression world wide.



Haiku Writing Primer

Here are important considerations for wiring your haiku about a ferret.

Write 3 lines in this pattern:

- Line 1 – 5 syllables only and should include a seasonal reference that is different from the other lines in the way it sounds or in its meaning
- Line 2 – 7 syllables
- Line 3 – 5 syllables

Here are some haiku examples:

長き夜や 毛換はる 鼬 忙しなく 勇利

Japanese

Nagakiyoya Kekawaru Itachi Sewashinaku Yu-ri

Japanese written with western alphabet

Night getting longer,
fur shedding weasel
busily preparing himself Yu-ri

English

Ferrets like the spring
Rush in as torrents of rain
Then become puddles Robin

English

Submit your Haiku for Publication on the AFA Web Site

Submit your haiku for inclusion on the American Ferret Association web site by emailing them to us. Be sure to include your name, age and any comments in the body of the email. Please also include the statement that the AFA has your permission to publish your work on the web site.

Send your poetry to afa@ferret.org

Visit the American Ferret Association to learn all about ferret care, foods & more!

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