



# Holistic Pet Care

## Exotic Animal Guide – Ferrets



### Basic Information



- Average size: 15 inches long
- Lifespan: 5-10 years with proper care
- Average weight: 2 - 4 ½ lbs
- Sleeps 15-18 hours a day.
- Carnivores

### Habitat and Toys

- Large, multi-tier pen/cage with **secure door** and **solid flooring**.  
Ensure habitat is **escape proof**, as they will try.
  - Enclosure should have plenty of hiding places and bedding material to dig
    - Can be litter trained. Clean daily
  - Proper bedding with crumble paper or soft animal bedding
    - Deep clean entire habitat once a week
  - Have several toys: bells, ball toys, hammocks, paper bags, cardboard boxes, ball pit, long tubes
    - Clean and filtered water in bowl



### Diet/Treats

#### Proper diet: Daily

- Raw food/eat: chicken, beef, lamb, eggs, birds
- Ensure raw food has flesh/skin, organ meat, muscle meat and edible bones

#### Treats: Offer once or twice a week

- Anything with high meat/protein content.
- Meaty treat sticks





## Health Guide

### Positive Health Qualities:

- ❖ Playful and active energy
- ❖ Assortment of chirping/chattering sounds
- ❖ Digging and hiding in “dens”
- ❖ Shiny coat and clear eyes
- ❖ Eating and drinking regularly
- ❖ Naps regularly

### Red Flags of Concern:

- > Weight Loss
- > Hair Loss
- > Diarrhea
- > Lethargic
- > Mouth sensitivity
- > Eye discharge
- > Nasal discharge
- > Skin lesions
- > Overgrown nails

### General Care:

Physical examinations annually  
Trim nails every 2-3 weeks  
Bathe with specific Ferret shampoo monthly

### Common Health Concerns

Health Concern	Symptoms	Actions to Take
Diarrhea	Loose stool caused by poor diet, stress, internal parasites or unclean housing	Have fecal tested with veterinarian to determine cause and treat accordingly
Ear mites	Parasite causing itching and brownish discharge from ears	Physical exam with veterinarian, determine type of mites and treat accordingly
Upper Respiratory Infection	Crusty eyes, nasal discharge and difficulty breathing	Consult veterinarian
Adrenal Gland disorder	Caused by early spay/neutering; loss of hair	Consult veterinarian