

# Clark's Pet Emporium

## Ferret Care Sheet



*Species - Ferret*

Clark's Pet Emporium has taken pride in sharing quality pets with our community for over 40 years. Now you can give your pet the very best care, from our home to yours, with Clark's Care Sheets.

The Ferret care sheet will provide you with basic knowledge to begin your new life with a Ferret, ranging from diet to habitat and husbandry. For further details regarding specific care, please contact Clark's with your questions and concerns.

### Shopping Check-List:

#### Is a Ferret the right pet for you?

Please take a moment to consider the following points before purchasing:

- Are you allergic to animal fur dander or claws? Small animals like Ferrets have heavy dander that many people are allergic to! Be sure to handle the animal in store before purchasing to ensure allergies won't be a problem.
- Are you the type of person that will avidly clean a pet's habitat every day / week?
- Are you willing to make fundamental changes to your lifestyle to ensure your pet's safety if necessary?
- Other predatory pets could pose a threat to a small animal, or even yourself if the situation escalates. Be sure your home is compatible with an active, energetic small animal like a Ferret.

- Ferret book / reading material
- Appropriate sized enclosure with heavy gauge wire and solid locking doors
- Heavy glass, ceramic, or steel bowls
- Aspen-shaving or Clean and Cozy bedding (avoid cedar chips or carefresh)
- Litter pan and small animal litter
- Diet supplies - Ferret-specific protein kibble, soft food, and treats
- Proclivity supplies - Hide box/igloo, hammock, and climbing toys
- Water bottle and clip
- Animal-safe cleaning supplies

Once you have contemplated these fundamental concerns, read through the rest of this care sheet and visit your favorite Clark's location to inquire about adopting a Ferret.



*Ferret Handling*

## Dietary Needs:

- Ferrets are carnivores - in the wild, they would be eating mice, birds, rabbit, and other small animals
- Ferret metabolism is very fast, leading to high energy bursts
- As such, Ferrets require specially formulated Ferret food with high protein and fat content
- Cat foods, even holistic, are NOT recommended as a substitute and may have long term health consequences
- Treats need to be meat-based - there are several Natural chicken and turkey treats formulated for Ferrets. Soft fruits/vegetables like banana, cucumber, apple, and grapes can be fed sparingly

## Feeding Practice:

- Ferrets must eat frequently to sate their high metabolisms - typical Ferrets tend to eat every four hours, so be sure food is readily available
- Fresh, cool water must always be available in either a bowl or bottle
- Wet foods can be offered regularly, but be sure to remove these foods after three hours to avoid buildup of any harmful bacteria
- Treats are a supplement to high protein Ferret diet - offer sparingly



**Clark's Pet Emporium**  
4914 Lomas Blvd NE,  
Albuquerque, NM, 87110

Phone: (505)-268-5977  
Fax: (505)-266-2306



*Ferrets are social animals!*

## Housing:

- Ferrets are active and energetic on a regular basis - your Ferret will enjoy as much space as you can offer; The more, the better. Multiple vertical levels help to increase volume without consuming more floor space
- The cage should have a solid bottom covered with soft bedding - never use wire-bottom cages, as these wires can cause foot sores that can grow infected with time
- Ferrets sleep in "shifts" throughout the day and night. Consider placing the cage in a room besides the bedroom if you are concerned with sleep loss
- Be sure there are plenty of toys and activities available if you are not home or are asleep - tunnels, hammocks, balls, and puzzle toys are good options
- Playtime should be conducted outside the cage regularly, but only in a supervised, well controlled environment. Ferrets can easily squeeze into dangerous areas or consume harmful items. Take extreme care Ferret-proofing a play area

## Cleaning and Maintenance:

- Many Ferrets will learn to use a litter box, making cleaning easier. Litter should be changed every day or two.
- Waste should be removed daily, as Ferrets can be oblivious to their own waste when playing
- Bedding needs to be changed and the flooring disinfected weekly - be sure to use animal-safe cleaning products available at your nearest Clark's Pet store
- The entire cage, all tunnels, ramps, and shelves need to be disinfected every few weeks. At this time, wash all hammocks and fabrics with animal safe detergents to avoid health risks or allergies

## Safety Tips:

Ferrets are curious and inquisitive explorers. Be sure to ferret-proof your house. Seal up crawl spaces, vents, and spaces under cabinets or they may be lost in walls, ducts, or outside.

Never leave a Ferret unsupervised outside his cage. If your home cannot be easily secured, consider blocking off trouble areas and forming a safe play area (Ferret play pens are also available). If these options are not feasible, a Ferret may not be a compatible pet for your home!

Ferrets enjoy chewing; in any area, be sure there are no swallowable objects or substances

Never allow a Ferret near electrical outlets, devices, or cords. Electrocutation is a very real threat to any small animal that may chew on them

## Let's Have Some Fun:

- Even the most passive Ferrets are avid explorers and playmates. They enjoy any time spent playing with you outside their cage. Chasing small rubber balls and stuffed cat toys can be used to encourage exercise
- Ferrets will take on the challenge of a larger stuffed animal or other ferrets and wrestle! Hopping and play-fighting are favorite pastimes, but be careful not to encourage too much biting
- A properly fitted harness and leash are great tools to have. They allow you to take your ferret to new and exciting places (like Clark's!) to explore while allowing you to quickly keep them from danger
- Ferrets are, quite simply, some of the silliest and most entertaining animals available. Simply watching them play can make you laugh daily. Being a part of the action is not only fun and healthy for you, but is also rewarding for your Ferret and his lifestyle!



**Clark's Pet Supply**

11200 Menaul Blvd NE, Albuquerque,  
NM, 87112

Phone: (505)-292-6288  
Fax: (505)-292-0962