



**Avian & Exotic
Animal Hospital**
of Louisiana

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Practice Limited to Birds, Reptiles and Exotics

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FERRET HEALTH CARE

Ferrets are generally easy to care for pets. Their exuberant personality will provide for many hours of entertainment. Some basic tips on health care and a few guidelines for at home supervision will help you maintain your ferret in a healthy environment.

FOOD: We recommend feeding a "premium" ferret diet that is High Protein (40-60%) and Low Fat (18-22%). The use of Zupreem Ferret Diet is suitable for adult ferrets.

GROOMING: Once every two weeks is the maximum your ferret should be bathed. Bathing more frequently may result in dry, itchy skin. The shampoo products we recommend for healthy hair and skin are Touch of Mink Pet Shampoo and DVM shampoos. Odor is best controlled with a Pet Deodorizing spray. A ferret's ears collect a fair amount of brown wax. This wax can be removed by using a Q-Tip moistened with a veterinary approved ear cleansing solution and gently cleaning the outer canal. Brushing your ferrets teeth with a soft bristle "feline" tooth brush and veterinary tooth paste or cleaning solution is advised on a weekly basis. We recommend CET tooth paste.

HOUSE HOLD CARE: Protect your house as you would for a "toddler". Ferrets enjoy exploring and snooping around areas where they shouldn't be. For this reason, it is recommended not to let your ferret roam unattended. They do have a tendency to play with objects by placing them in their mouths, leaving the door open for swallowing things that may require surgery to remove.

VETERINARY CARE: Young Ferrets require three vaccinations against the Distemper Virus; one at 6-8 weeks of age; a second at 10-12 weeks of age; and a third at 16 weeks of age. Rabies vaccination should also be administered at 16 weeks of age. Yearly vaccination boosters are recommended against both the Distemper and Rabies Viruses. Signs of hair loss, irritated skin, abdominal distension, diarrhea, vomiting, or nasal discharge should be reported to your veterinarian as soon as possible. Blood chemistry profiles are recommended every 2-3 years to uncover unforeseen organ disease problems.

ALL FERRETS SHOULD BE PUT ON A MONTHLY HEARTWORM PREVENTION!

We strongly recommend annual health examinations on all exotics!

