

Ferrets are one of the most popular small animal pets for families. They are very curious, energetic, fun, lovable, and if cared for properly, will bring you joy for years to come. These guidelines are the basic necessities for your new pet. Please do your research and consult your veterinarian for further guidance.

## CAGE SET UP

Ferrets need a large, well-ventilated habitat, such as the Marshall Mansion or Ferret Nation. Ferrets do not need shavings, but will need something soft to sleep and nap in. Try using fleece, a towel, or small blanket. CountryMax sells a wide variety of ferret hides, tunnels, and hammocks that your pet will love.

## LITTER

Ferrets are fast learners, and will litter train easily if taught properly. Put the litter pan in the corner of the cage, filling with litter such as Marshall Ferret litter or horse pellet bedding. When cleaning the cage, keep a small amount of ferret waste in the litter pan, as the smell attracts them to the litter. When you see your ferret backing up in a corner to defecate, move it quickly to the litter pan, and give a treat when it has used the litter pan.

## TEMPERATURE

Room temperature, around 65-75° **F**, is ideal for ferrets. Keep their cage in a safe area, away from direct sunlight and drafts.

## FOOD

Ferrets are strictly carnivorous. Feed commercial pelleted ferret diet, with occasional eggs, chicken and turkey for treats. Young ferrets can not digest dry food until approximately 12 weeks old. The ferret food should be mixed with water for the first few weeks, at a ratio of 3:1. One part food, three parts water; with a consistency of soft baby food, adding less water as the ferret ages.

ACCESSORIES AND TOYS

Ferrets enjoy playing with toys, cardboard tubes, old sweatshirts, or anything they can hide in, jump on, or run around. There are many options of ferret toys at CountryMax to choose from that will give your ferret hours of playtime. \*\*Ferrets will chew everything; be careful and give them safe toys.

HANDLING

Ferrets are very playful animals, and enjoy much attention. Handle them often, and provide many opportunities for them to exercise. When they play, they play hard, and then they sleep for approximately 19-20 hours a day!

CAGE CLEANING

Clean the cage pans and litter boxes daily. Spray with Nature's Miracle to eliminate the ferret odor. Always keep the food dishes and glass water bottles cleaned.

\*\*\*Note: Ferrets are very social animals, and will need a lot of attention and interaction. It is highly suggested that ferrets are purchased in pairs.

Developed in partnership with The Ontario County Humane Society