

New Ferret Checklist of Items You'll Need to have:

- Cage:** The cage should be a place where your ferret feels comfortable and secure. You may want to place it in a central room so that the ferret can still see what's going on and feel like part of the family. The cage should allow free airflow (not an aquarium). If you think you might get more ferrets in the future, plan ahead with a large enough cage.
- Hammock(s):** Ferrets have very flexible spines and like to sleep curled up in a hammock.
- Other Bedding:** Use soft cloth, like old T-shirts or sweatshirts for ferret blankets. Wash the bedding regularly to help reduce the ferret musk smell. **Do not use wood chips/shavings.**
- Food:** Use a high quality ferret food like Totally Ferret, Zupreem, 8-in-1 Ultimate Dry, or Innova Evo. You may also use a high quality cat food like Kirkland Super Premium Maintenance Cat or Blue Buffalo cat. Since ferrets are carnivores, look for a food with meat as its first ingredient(s). Allow access to food at all times.
- Food Bowl:** Ferrets are always playing with things. Look for a heavy bowl that will be more difficult for them to move or flip over.
- Water Bottle and/or Water Dish:** Ferrets should have access to water at all times. Although many like to lap water from a bowl, many will also spill the water and play with it. A water bottle will ensure that they always have water available.
- Litter Box(es):** Ferrets should have a litter box in their cage (more than one if the cage size/number of ferrets warrants it). **You will also want litter boxes throughout the rooms your ferret will be playing in.**
- Litter:** We recommend wood stove pellets or a compressed newspaper pellet litters.
- Nail Clippers:** Ferrets need their nails clipped on a regular basis (every one to two weeks) to prevent foot damage and to prevent them from accidentally scratching you.

Good to have, but not necessary:

- Treats:** Remember that treats are just that - small rewards. They should not be a large part of your ferret's diet. However, they are good for bonding with your ferret and rewarding good behavior, learning tricks, etc.
- Shampoo:** We do not recommend you bathe your ferret unless it is REALLY dirty. Ferrets should not be bathed more than once or twice a **year**. Use a ferret-specific shampoo.
- Ear Cleaning Solution:** Ferrets need their ears cleaned on a regular basis. Use a ferret-specific ear cleaning solution.
- Harness & Leash:** Use a harness that goes both around the neck and front legs.
- Carrying Cage:** A portable carrier to be used for bringing the ferret to the veterinarian or other outings. Also can serve as a training aid by serving as a "time-out" cage for a misbehaving ferret.
- Toys:** Ferrets will entertain themselves with anything they can find. Ferret-safe toys should not have parts they could accidentally chew off and swallow. Always monitor all toys for damage. Accidentally swallowed pieces of things can lead to intestinal blockages. People are the best toy of all - spend time playing with your ferret!