



**Fun fact**  Ferrets  
sleep 14–18 hours  
each day.

# Ferret at a Glance

Difficulty of care: **Beginner**

Average lifespan: **4–10 years**

Average adult size: **About 15” long; 1–2 kg**

Diet: **High-protein, high-fat pelleted food; no raw meat, sugary foods, fruits, or vegetables**

Minimum habitat size: **For two ferrets, at least 24” L × 24” W × 36” H**

Temperature: **Keep between 40–85 F**

## Enclosure Setup and Maintenance

- Choose the largest cage possible for your ferret; multilevel cages allow jumping and play. Bar spacing should be 1 inch or smaller to prevent escapes.
- Keep the cage indoors or outdoors only if temperatures remain within 40–85 F. Place the cage off the floor, away from drafts, direct sun, and other household animals.
- Line the bottom with 1–2 inches of paper-based bedding. Avoid pine or cedar shavings.
- Provide tunnels, ramps, blankets, and towels for burrowing and climbing.
- Spot-clean daily and deep-clean weekly. Remove old bedding, scrub with a 3% bleach solution or habitat cleaner, rinse well, and dry completely.

## Supply Checklist

- Properly sized habitat
- Pelleted ferret food and treats
- Bedding and burrowing materials
- Stable food bowl and water bottle
- Ferret-safe toys, hammocks, and hideaways
- Litter pan and ferret-safe litter
- Indoor playpen
- Harness and leash
- Brush, nail clippers, and ferret-safe shampoo



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## Health

See a vet yearly when your ferret is young, and twice yearly after age 5.

Healthy ferrets have clear eyes, ears, and nostrils; shiny coats; long whiskers; trimmed nails; and good appetite and energy.

Watch for discharge, hair loss, broken whiskers, appetite loss, diarrhea, lethargy, or a swollen belly. Contact your vet if you notice any of these signs.

**Fun fact** ↻ Ferrets can be trained to use a litter box.

## Diet

Feed only high-quality dry pelleted ferret food and offer meals to your ferret twice daily. Do not feed raw meat, sugary treats, fruits, or vegetables.

Provide constant access to fresh, clean water. Clean bowls and refill food and water daily.



## Fun fact

They belong to the mustelid family, not the rodent family.