



Three Rivers Ferret Council, Inc.



Newsletter

February 2014



February TRFC Meeting Sunday, February 16

This month we will be talking about any medical issues you'd like to discuss, having a fun activity (name storming) and if the literature is done in time, making adoption packets. We might also have another shelter project to work on.

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SCHEDULE

11:30 am Load van at Barb's

12:00 - 1:00 Set up store

1:00 Meeting starts

3:30 Raffle

4:00 Meeting ends

Oliver, the starved ferret



When Oliver came into the shelter, he was half dead and weighed only 1 lb 4 oz. A normal male ferret should weigh 2.5 to 3 lbs. He'd been found in a soft-sided carrier by the side of a residential street where he and his cage mate had been left to die. The cage mate didn't survive, but Oliver did.

He was severely dehydrated and basically fur stretched over bone.

This photo is after he'd been here a few days. It's hard to see just how thin he was, but you can see on his neck and by his sunken eyes. This was after he'd already put 4 ounces on!

It was difficult at first. He didn't want to eat and when he did eat, he'd throw up. The vet put him on some meds (including Reglan) and that helped. It's taken three weeks, but now he's up to 2 lbs 4 oz and working on putting on those last few ounces. He's a good-sized ferret and seems to be around 1.5 to 2 years old. My new shelter volunteer, Kay, took a day off work to feed him throughout

the day and various other volunteers (Natalie, Joe, Jackie) stopped by during the day to feed him. We felt like celebrating the day he felt strong enough to crunch on some kibble!

Now, he's acting like a normal ferret, hiding toys, running through the tubes and investigating. He's either deaf or doesn't know those sounds mean anything.

He's very hard to photograph; he's very wiggly. I guess he's making up for lost time. Several people are interested in him, and we're hoping he's open to having a new friend.



Member News

I wanted to introduce Sneaky and Nosey – two foster ferrets from the shelter. They were dropped off at the humane society with very little information on them. Both are around 5 years old. Sneaky is the very large light colored male and Nosey is the smaller dark colored female. They are extremely attached and very very sweet! Sneaky is terribly fast and loves to run/hop around all over the house! Nosey is more cautious but has a ton of energy. Sneaky loves water play, and Nosey loves our textured tunnel! They are both living with my older female after her buddy passed away and left her all alone. All three of them enjoy sleeping in their large cat bed inside their cage and playing in the packing peanut box! It didn't take them long to adjust to their new life here and add a third member to their pack.

—Jessica Reed



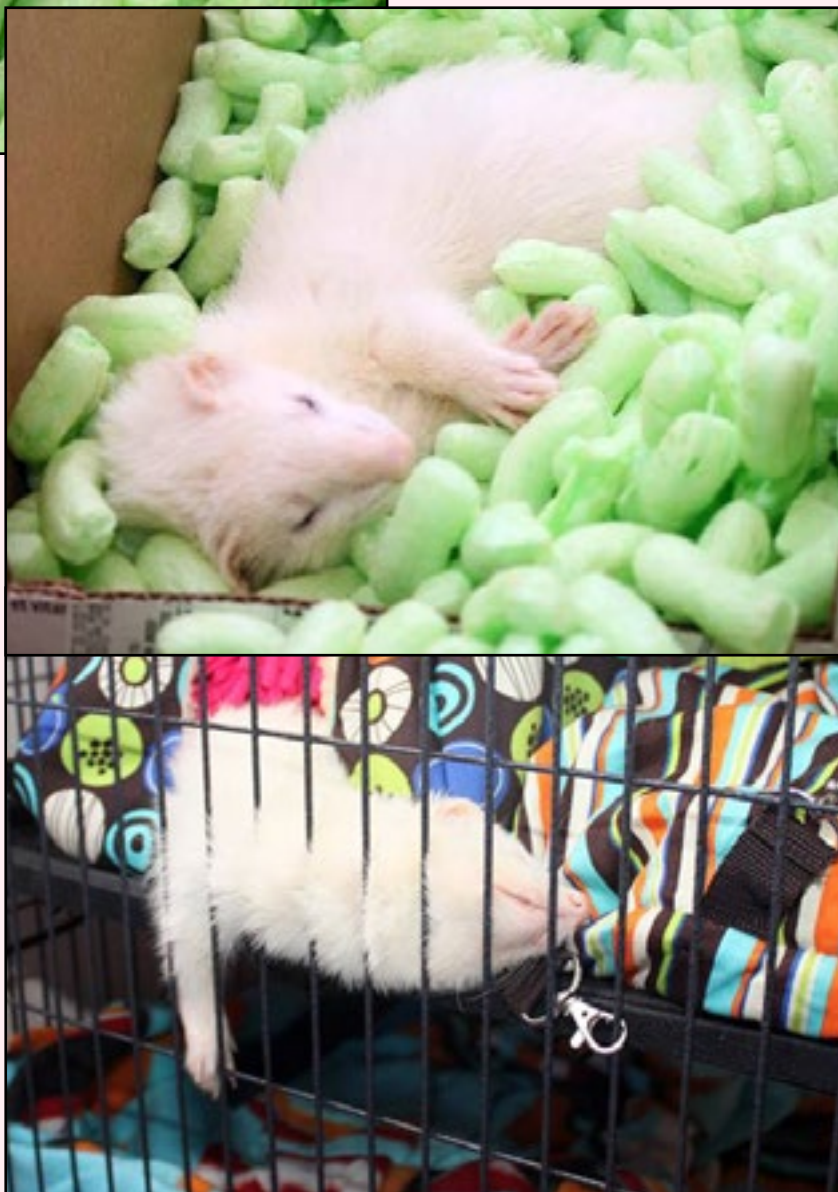
Member News



Update on Blizzard – Blizz has been doing great since he came into our home about 8 months ago! All of his hair has grown back and he is very happy living in a large space! We have two ferret nation cages converted into one large cage where Blizz has the whole bottom level to himself, along with a little 2nd story where he can enjoy his hanging bed. He has yet to take to the other ferrets so we

have stopped trying. He is very content to live alone and enjoy a solo playtime. His favorite spot is our packing peanut box! He has his own mini box made out of a Tupperware container in his cage that he sleeps in all the time. We are always adding new textured blankets into his cage and he loves dragging them into his bed to make a little nest for himself. His low blood sugar came back but with a quick trip to the vet and some medication, he is doing well again! He came to visit the shelter last month and said a quick hello to Barb before running off to enjoy some of her famous Soup :) Thank you to the shelter staff for all you have done for Blizzard and leading him to us!

–Jessica R. & Family



Shelter News

by Joe Rembisz

We had a cold but relatively calm January here at the shelter. We only had one surrender and one abandoned ferret brought into the shelter this month. Oliver came in in bad shape – you can read more on him elsewhere in the newsletter.



Sid

Sid is a new kid at the shelter. Sid was surrendered because of a new baby in the family and no time for him. Sid was also in need of surgery which his old family could not find the money to have done. Ferrets with medical problems always move to the front of the line to get into the shelter. Sid has

a dangerously large chordoma tumor on the end of his tail. Just look at the size of the bandage! The family was able to make a donation toward Sid's surgery, which was awesome of them to do. The father was very sad to give up Sid but he knows Sid will get the care he needs here. Sid's surgery went great and is ready for a forever home now.



Micki - adopted

Out the door and off to a nice forever home went Billie and Brody. These two really impressed their new family when they came to look at them: Billie used the litter box right in front of her new family and Brody followed them around, staring up at them, asking to be picked up.

Micki found her forever home, too, by fitting right in with the family's current ferrets.

We always have a bunch of ferrets ready to be adopted. Sid,



Oliver playing



Sid

Shelter News (cont.)

Silk, Roscoe, Brutus, Amarette, Bradley, Sneaky Pete, Bart, Calypso, and more.



Silk playing



Roscoe and Brutus (in tube stealing peanut)



Silk



Roscoe and Brutus

Shelter News (cont.)



Sneaky Pete (available)



Bart and Calypso (available)

Memorials

We wish to remember the ferrets that have crossed over the Rainbow Bridge.

If you would like your ferret to be remembered, send the appropriate information to TRFCnews@gmail.com



Max, Pat Andrews' 8 year old hob. This is a picture of my sweet vasectomized hob, Max. I'm his third owner ... fourth if you count his breeder. He's 8 yo or so. He was diagnosed with insulinoma three months ago and did well for a couple of months but he started losing weight a few weeks ago.



FPWC's Jazmau of DLF, Susan George's black sable breeder Jill on Jan. 21, 2014. She was only 3.5 years old.

Sable: I know you are in a much better place but I really want you here with me NOW. I need you to keep following me around and nipping at my ankles with your slow wobbly gate. When I called your name you always looked up expecting me to either feed you your soup or to pick you up only to want back down again. I loved giving you Pet Tinic (because you were anemic) with a syringe and watching you attack it for more (she just loved that taste >yuck<). Your cage mates Furrari and Sammy need you here to groom them which they tolerated because I guess they loved you also. Basically I need you here to see your petite white face looking at me because I just loved you so very much. But I have to realize you are in a better place and no longer in pain with Heart Disease, IBD, Insulinoma, Adrenal and probably throw in a cancer of some sort. I miss you little one. Thank you Barb for letting her be with me as a permanent foster for these past 2 yrs. —*Jackie*

Madeira was 3 years old last December when I adopted her, and aside from her bond with Cooper (also from the shelter) at that time she latched onto and chewed everyone and everything. After lots of Ferretone and trust, her bites turned to kisses and she would clean my entire face daily, sometimes nibbling my eyebrows. She was a loving, smart and aloof ferret with looks that could kill. She passed away from a perforated ulcer after 30 hours at the emergency vet. She will be missed. Survived by Cooper, Milo, Kodo, Fang and Mom. Dook on Maddy.

—Sandy





Duncan: Oh how you are missed sweet boy. You brought so much joy to our lives. We were absolutely crushed to lose you. I could not let you suffer and I am sorry you had to suffer even one day of your life. You were innocent and undeserving of any pain you endured. Rest in peace sweet baby. We wait to see you again someday.

—Love mom, dad, Lilly, Loki, Charlie, Sasha, Lucy and Arlow.

From shelter mom: Duncan, fostered by Ashley Thomas, died suddenly after a short illness of an apparent perforated ulcer. He left behind his cage mate, Lily, and is sorely missed.





Haddock: A lil over 2 years ago I walked into the Hide-e-Hole Ferret Rescue looking for 2 ferrets. Barb asked me what is was looking for. I said I guess 2 older ferrets since I don't know if I want to commit to a 6 year pet right now. Well she had a few of those available.

I had had my eye on Haddock after seeing him on the website and Giving Tree. His face spoke to me. Once I met Haddock I was sold on him. Haddock was paired with Simon who was thin and had a bald tail. I was told of all the medical issues older ferrets have to make sure I knew what I was in for. I knew I didn't want young ferrets that would climb the walls and steal everything. So home I went with the boys.



After a week I knew I had made the right choice. They were really good ferrets and were well trained to my routine. They used litter boxes and they didn't try to escape. They didn't hide stuff and they were ok with other ferrets. By the second year some medical problems arose in both but with the help of the shelter staff and Dr. Wagner the guys stayed healthy and happy.



When they started having medical problems, I decided to covert the boys to a raw diet and get them off kibble. I heard horror stories of bladder stones and high vet bills associated with some kibble. The process took some time and I never made it to the bone chewing stage with either. The boys took well to eating raw chicken beef,

lamb, all types of organs, eggs and the Stella and Chewys freeze dried. Toward the end, Dr Wagner said Haddock's raw diet helped him with his IBD which kept him active until his final day. Haddock's last morning meal was a big bowl of duck gizzard, chicken liver and rabbit. He ate like a champ, played in his bags and passed away that evening going out like a king on top of the world.

There is so much I will miss with him gone: walks outside in the morning with him pulling on the leash, Haddock racing Simon to the kitchen to eat and head butting Simon as he passed him. Haddock was a treasure to have I'm glad I got to share my life with him. My first pet loss has been hard on me. Now I have to focus on Simon and keep him happy and healthy since he lost a good friend, too, and is confused about where his sleeping buddy is. Simon had a few days at home without Haddock and now he's on a play date with his favorite gal Chicklet (owned by Natalie).





Pico passed away recently at roughly 10 years old. He came to us when he was around 8 years old, in really poor condition. An acquaintance of mine contacted me via facebook asking if I could possibly take in another ferret because she had no time for him and knew he was being neglected. She also had no money for food so he had been on Meow Mix for the last few years. After taking a 7 hour trip back to my home town to get him, we picked up Pico and all of his cage materials and toys.

He was living in a very filthy cage and he was not litter trained. We slowly switched him over to a healthier food and he took to our existing ferrets very well. A trip to the vet

showed that he had developed low blood sugar, which would explain why he became very lethargic after we got him. He managed to escape from his cage on his first night home (my first and ever escapee in 10 years of owning ferrets!).

He had never seen another ferret in his entire 8 years of life, but took to our youngest girl very quickly. They became best buddies and she comforted him in his last days. In his last two months, he had stopped using the litter pan and started to slow down with eating. He looked to be in pain and couldn't get into his favorite hammock any more. We moved him into a smaller cage to accommodate his needs until we took him to his last appointment at the vet.

My 4 year old daughter wanted to come with me and held Pico in his last moments while I explained the story of the rainbow bridge, where Pico would be going to play with all of our other ferrets that have passed.

We miss you little guy. I'm glad we could give you a great two years with us and with other ferrets to play with. You were such a sweet and cuddly little one. Thank you for coming into our lives!!

—Jessica R. & family



Miscellany

Dates for 2014:

March 16

April falls on Easter ... which would you rather have, April 13 or April 27th?

May 18

June falls on Father's Day ... do you want to do it June 15 or the following week on June 22?

July 20

August 17

September picnic

October 19

November 16

December 21 or 14?

FOR SALE: Old style Ferret Nation cage. Two levels, complete. A little dirty from sitting on the back porch. Asking \$100 (new they were around \$250-300). Contact Barb at bcarlson@andrew.cmu.edu if interested.

FREE: Various bits and pieces of cages. Take my junk, please.

ALSO AVAILABLE for a donation: Extra (used) bedding, water bottles, partially used bottles of shampoo, Daily Spritz, etc. Come to the shelter (or a meeting) to claim.

A BIG BIG THANK YOU to those volunteers who have been keeping the shelter running. They have been dedicating a large portion of their time to keeping the shelter running while Barb deals with other things and they are greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU!

Supplies needed: Wood pellet litter, paper towels, EVO Dog little bites. Volunteer Opportunities: Cage cleaning, helping with shelter records and book keeping, Nails and Ear cleaning before meetings – you can help load the van too!

TRFC YAHOO GROUP DISCUSSION LIST

Want to tap into a wealth of advice and information? Join the TRFC Yahoo discussion list! It's easy—just ask Barb at (bcarlson@andrew.cmu.edu) for an invitation link, click on the link, and you're done!

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