

October TRFC Newsletter



Halloween Party!

Ferret costume contest
Pumpkin carving contest
1 pm - 4 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church
601 Brownsville Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15210

Come in the **RED DOOR**
on the Margaret Street side
and come down to

The Basement!



This month's meeting topics:

Ferret Costume Contest



The TRFC is sponsoring the ferret costume contest where the ferrets dress up and win prizes! We will award 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners by popular vote. Prizes are gift certificates to the TRFC store.



Pumpkin Carving Contest



The Posh Ferret is sponsoring a ferret-themed pumpkin carving contest. Halloween-themed ribbons and prizes will be awarded. The only rule is that there must be at least one ferret in your design. Carve at home and bring to the meeting.

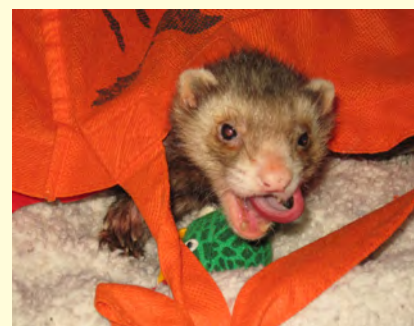


Simon's Story

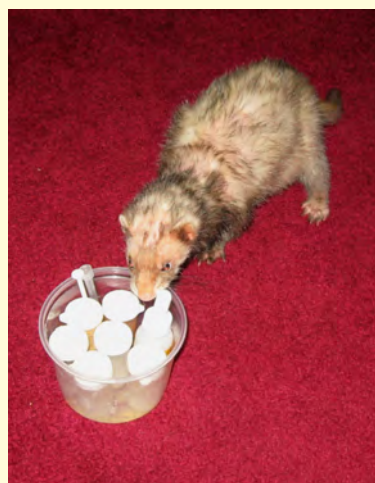
by Joe Rembisz



When I decided to get a ferret I knew I would get it from the Hide-E-Hole Ferret Rescue. While looking at the Christmas Giving Tree for ferrets that were available at the rescue, there was Haddock. His picture spoke to me so I had to go meet him. I was sold at first site, Haddock was all I liked in ferrets. Barb said he came in with a ferret named Simon. He was skinny with a bald tip on his tail, and older than Haddock. I knew it was better to get 2 ferrets so Simon came, too. Haddock has since passed away after 2 years with me but Simon is still hanging in there.



At Simon's last visit to the vet he wasn't looking good and I was worried. I heard words that you never want to hear from your vet, "Not much we can do at this point let's just work to keep him comfortable while he's with us." I went prepared to not come home with Simon but Dr. Wagner thought it wasn't his time yet. The doc said, "You take good care of him and watch him close I think he'll live longer."

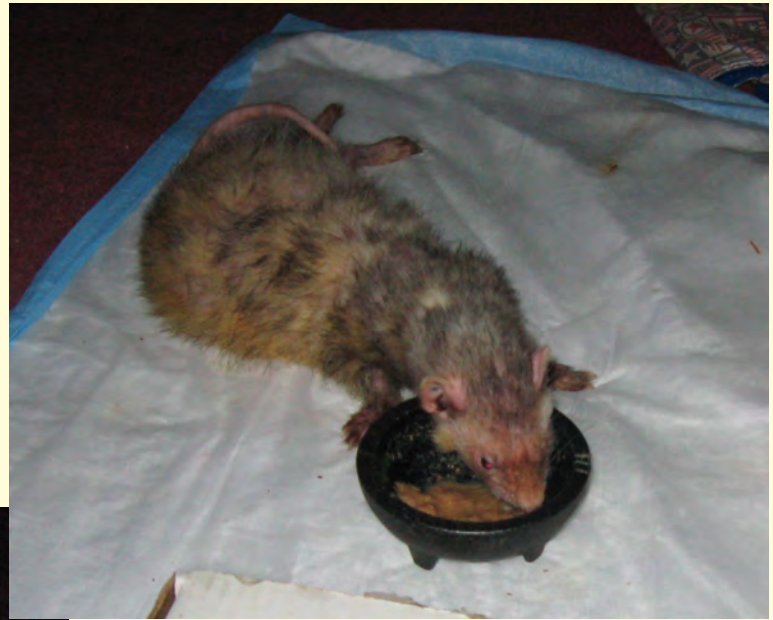


Simon is about 8yrs old and needs a lot of extra effort to keep him going. He needs washed off regularly since he leaks and he gets pee burn. I have to express his bladder when I see him starting to go because his muscles are so weak. His poo is inspected daily for any signs of change. He gets an oatmeal bath every week to keep his skin clear and not itchy. He's on 5 meds everyday twice a day. He's currently on an antibiotic to clear a staph infection he has. Simon eats a raw diet so I have to be there every 12 hours to feed him each day.

On average, Simon eats 1-1/2 lbs of raw chicken mix each week. I swear I spend more time in the kitchen preparing food for Simon than I do for myself. His diet helps keep his IBD from flaring up too much. His poos are still ok. He has the beginning stage of megaesophagus but I feed him with his food bowl raised up. I hold him to make sure he eats all his food, and he does. Simon has trouble walking when he first wakes up due to arthritis in his left hip. A month ago Simon was bald on his head and looking real bad. He got a Lupron shot and has bounced back again with a full head of hair. Simon is lucky in that he doesn't have insulinoma. He is adrenal and does have cardiomyopathy, but his meds keep him going. Simon still knows his name and comes when called to eat, and he still knows where to go to get fed.



He loves being outside and knows that the steps lead to his bed inside when he's done playing. At 3 lbs Simon does not look like your average old ferret. He is not wasting away and has most of his hair. He still has life in his eyes. I keep a close eye on Simon as I don't want him to be in pain or suffer. I think I will know when he reaches his time to go. I want him to go peacefully on his own but if need be I will be here to help him cross over. If he's feeling well, Simon will be making an appearance at the TRFC meeting on Sunday, October 19th.



About pet food guarantees

Condensed by Barb Carlson; original article: <http://truthaboutpetfood.com/failed-guarantee/>

In 2013, the Illinois Department of Agriculture randomly tested 16 pet foods and other animal feeds and found they did not match what was listed in the "Guaranteed Analysis" on product labels. Nothing was recalled, either. The report was called "Feed Book -- Illinois Commercial Feed Laboratory Analysis 2013".

While some of these foods should be well-known as poor foods, **Canidae** is a supposedly half decent food (as listed on the More Dooks food chart) but if it doesn't contain what it's supposed to contain, this could be a serious problem. Also **Solid Gold** has a reputation as a good food (Dog Food Advisor gives it 4.5 out of 5 stars) but a protein level of 2% lower than what was stated is rather significant!

Here are the pet foods tested:

Against the Grain Pulled Chicken w/Gravy Dinner Dogs

Crude Protein Guarantee minimum 10% – Found 8.9%

Black Gold Pet Food Premium Dog Food 26.18 Performance Blend

Crude Fat Guarantee minimum 18% – Found 14.7%

Canidae Chicken Lamb and Fish in Chicken Broth Can

Crude Protein Guarantee minimum 9% – Found 7.6%

Cargill River Run Hi-NRG 24-20 Dog Food

Crude Fat Guarantee minimum 20% – Found 17.12%

Diamond Original Adult Dog

Crude Fat Guarantee minimum 12% – Found 9.76%

Evangers Low Grain Super Premium Dog Food Whitefish & Sweet Potato

Calcium Guarantee 1.5% – Found 1.94%

Joy Pet Foods Professional High Energy Dog Food 24/20

Crude Fat Guarantee minimum 20% – Found 17.4

K-Mart Corp / Simmons Pet Foods Inc

Champion Breed Chicken & Beef Dinner for Puppies

Calcium Guarantee 0.28 – Found 0.24

Nature's Recipe Del Monte/Big Heart

Nature's Recipe Venison & Rice Homestyle Healthy Skin

Copper Guarantee .02% – Found .005% (only 1/4 of what it should have been)

Loyall Active Adult Formula 26.19 Dog Food

Crude Fat Guarantee minimum 19% – Found 16%

Loyall Cat & Kitten Formula 30/15

Magnesium Guarantee .08 – Found .05

River Run Professional Formula 30-20 Dog Food

Crude Fat Guarantee minimum 20% – Found 16.94%

Precise Holistic Complete Flaked Pork Formula for Cats

Crude Fat Guarantee minimum 4.5% – Found 3%

Solid Gold High Protein Chicken Recipe Dog Food

Crude Protein Guarantee minimum 10% – Found 8.38%

Target / Simmons Pet Food

Boots & Barkley Dog Food w/Beef Cuts in Gravy Dog Food

Crude Protein minimum 8% – Found 6%

Variety Pet Food Homestyle Recipes Savannah Crockpot

Crude Fat Guarantee minimum 7% – Found 5.5%

Crude Protein Guarantee minimum 8% – Found 6.2%

Why weren't these products recalled? This is just a small sampling of cat and dog foods. What would a similar analysis of our ferret foods show—especially the lower quality ones?

How can consumers trust manufacturers and regulatory authorities if “guarantees” hold no meaning?

And so the pet food battle continues ...



Interesting articles on the Internet

What to do when one ferret dies that is part of a group: <http://holisticferret60.proboards.com/thread/1064/death-grief> (Short URL: <http://tinyurl.com/kb7om5y>)

One ferret's battle with food allergies: <http://www.smallanimalchannel.com/ferrets/ferret-diet/one-ferrets-battle-with-food-allergies.aspx> (Short URL: <http://tinyurl.com/k55udb6>)



Xena (adopted)

Picnic results

We had a great turnout this year with around 75 people attending and 35 signed in (giving us updated emails). The raffle donations started out slow, but we ended up with a really nice raffle! Mostly due to individual people donating and/or making things. Thanks everyone!

The 50/50 for the shelter netted \$67 which was split with Joe Rembisz.

GAMES

Pop Goes the Weasel

Fastest win was pat with Druid at 6 seconds

2nd Fastest win was lindsey with lux at 8 seconds

3rd Fastest win was tied: jeanna with mocha and Jane with Schroeder at 10 seconds

Fastest Lose was mike with Moses at 8 seconds

Pokey Puppy Award was the same ferret twice with a win at 45seconds and lose at 1 min and 56 seconds: Jess with apple

Chariot Judging Contest

1st place: The Dragon, Dave Moore & Shiro

2nd place: Come Ride the Rainbow, Flo Malcolm & Ruby

3rd place: Dream Bed, Kelly Lightner & Karma

Honorable Mentions: Pumpkinmobile, Dave K & Storm; Car, Dave K & Beast; Party Car, Dave Mehrmann & Tobey; Motorcycle, Kelly Lightner & Deuce; Space Box, Kelly Lightner & Tig

Cup Tip

1st place: Flo & Winnie with 5 cups

2nd place: Dave Mehrmann & Tobey with 4 cups

3rd place: Katy & Reshiram with 3 cups (won the tip-off against Sully (2), Lux (1), and June (0).

Many people participated in this game and quite a few were surprised to find their ferrets delicately stepping around (and sometimes hovering over) the cups without knocking them down. Here are the rest of the results:

0 cups: Laura Evans & Midnight; Jane & Thor; Jenna & Sophia; Jenna & Moca; Killian & Deuce; Janice & Brandy; Pat & Druid; Pat & Lilly

1 cup: Killian & Karma; Jane & Deuce; Mike & Link; Shannon M. & Shiro

2 cups: Dave M. & Bailey; Laura E & Hans; Jane & Natalia; Julia & Ollie; Kelly & Tig; Lindsey & Lux; Pat & Quark; Katy & Elvira

3 cups: Janice & Sully; Lindsey & Lux; Lindsey & June; Mike & Moses

Picnic results (cont.)

Costume Contest: Handmade

- 1st place: Dave & Beast as a Worm
- 2nd place: Pat and Lily as a Fur Snake
- 3rd place: Dave and Storm as a Clown

Costume Contest: Purchased

- 1st place: Janice & Suky as a Taco
- 2nd place: Jane & Shroder as a Jack-in-the-Box (the box was handmade but the actual costume was purchased)
- 3rd place: Mandy and Mia as a Princess
- Honorable mentions: Jane & Thor as a Dead Frog; Janice & Brandy as a Princess

Escape (from under a box):

- 1st Place: Pat & Druid at 16 seconds
- 2nd Place: Shelter helper & Zeus at 22 seconds
- 3rd Place: Flo & Winnie at 29 seconds

Slowest to escape:

- Lora & Hans at 1 minute
- Kay & Ace at 53 seconds
- Brandon & Ollie at 52 seconds
- Katy & Reshiram at 47 seconds
- Lora & Midnight at 39 seconds

Refused to escape:

Tyler & Mocha, Tyler & Sophia, Janice & Sully, Lindsey & Lux, Lindsey & June, Pat & Lily, Brandon & Bella, Katy & Elvira, Jessica & Apple, Mike & Link, Jessica K. & Lacey, Dave M & Bailey and Dave M and Toby.

Flower Pot Dig

- 1st Place: Chris M. & Dunkin at 2 seconds
- 2nd Place: Janice & Sully at 3 seconds
- 3rd Place: Katy & Elvira at 8 seconds

Also ran (99 means they timed out): 9–Lora & Hans, 9–Lora & Midnight, 12 -Chris M & Dunkin, 16–Mike & Link, 20–Lindsey & Lux, 20–Chris & Atreyu, 32–Katy & Reshiram, 39–Jenna & Mocha, 99–Lindsey & June, 99–Kevin & Fay, 99–Amanda & Tobey, 99–Joe & Zeus, 99–Pat & Druid

Picnic results (cont.)

Chariot Race

1st Place: Dave M. & Tobie

2nd Place: Kelly & Tig

3rd Place: Kelly & Deuce

Also participating: Shannon & Shiro, Dave & Beast, Dave & Storm, Kelly & Karma, Mike & Moses, Flo & Ruby, Jane & Shroder

Tube Races

1st Place: Janice & Sully at 2 seconds

2nd Place: Tyler & Mocha at 4 seconds

3rd Place: Lesley & Lux at 6 (8)(2) seconds (extra numbers indicate run-offs)

Almost third place: Janice & Brandy at 6 (8) (4) seconds, Dave M & Tobie at 6 (5) seconds

Others who ran: 8–Katy & Reshiram, 9–Tyler & Mocha, 10–Mike & Moses, 11–Chris & Duncan, 11–Chris & Fionnlaugh, 12–Kay & Ace, 12–Lindsey & June, 12–Katy & Elvira, 14–Lindsey & June, 18–Lora & Midnight, 19–Jenna & Sophia, 19–Kevin & Faye, 19–Dave M & Bailey, 23–Flo & Winnie, 99–Lora & Hans, 99–Aimsa & Mia

Picnic Photos can be found on the TRFC Facebook page. You are encouraged to post your own photos. We love seeing them!



Memorial



Those of you that attended the 2014 Ferret Follies this year may remember meeting “our girls” (Lucy and Sadie). They had a wonderful time at this year’s picnic and were completely surprised to find out they weren’t the only ferrets out there.

Two weeks after the picnic, sweet little Lucy (silver) crossed the Rainbow Bridge quite suddenly. She had not been ill, so it really took us by surprise. You know the hole that that leaves in your heart. Lucy was the most “un-ferret” we’ve ever known. She was so easy going and dear. When she came to our home, she did not know how to be a ferret, so we introduced her to Sadie and they became life-long friends. Sadie taught her all about being a ferret.

Lucy had the most luxurious fur, beautiful garnet eyes and pink nose. Her little paws were so soft, and almost always kept her nails retracted so as not to scratch you. Her little feet reminded me of pink ballet slippers.

We miss her, but she will remain in our hearts forever, just as the others have from our “clan”. We know she is happy and healthy on the other side of the Bridge with all the other wonderful animals that have crossed before.

—Ginger & Darwin Webb

Miscellany

Dates for 2014:

October 19
November 16
December 14 (early)

Dates for 2015:

January 18
February 15
March 15
April 19
May 17
June 21? (Father's Day)
July 19
August 16
September 20 Picnic?

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!

A BIG BIG THANK YOU to those volunteers who have been keeping the shelter running. You are greatly appreciated. THANK YOU!

Supplies needed: Wood pellet litter, paper towels, EVO Dog little bites, Orijen Cat/Kitten Chicken.

Volunteer Opportunities: Cage cleaning, helping with shelter records and book keeping, grooming, writing articles for newsletter/pamphlets.

Cage Sales: We usually have a selection of cages available.

Wire: A plethora of cage wire that could be used for an outdoor enclosure. We thought the cat rescue was going to take it, but they didn't.

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