



Three Rivers Ferret Council, Inc.



Newsletter

September 2014



September 21, 2014
TRFC Picnic & Fun Match
Silent Brook Barn
South Park
11am - 5pm

SCHEDULE

9am: Helpers assemble at grove
to rearrange tables/put up signs

11am start grill

12:00 food

1 or so: games!

4pm raffles

5pm clean up

In this issue:

Pesticides

Shelter ferrets

Heart disease

Outdoor Toxins your Pet May Encounter

About 70% of the insecticides in use in the United States are organophosphorous (OP) pesticides. These pesticides work by interfering with the nervous system. Some are highly acutely toxic, some cause development or reproductive harm, and some are known or suspected endocrine disruptors. (Remember, adrenal disease is an endocrine disorder.)

Commonly used organophosphates include parathion, malathion, methyl parathion, chlorpyrifos, diazinon, dichlorvos, phosmet, fenitrothion, tetrachlorvinphos, azamethiphos, and azinphos methyl. Malathion is widely used in agriculture, residential landscaping, public recreation areas, and in public health pest control programs such as mosquito eradication.

They can be absorbed through the lungs or skin or by eating them on food.

Signs of poisoning: salivation, watery eyes, urination, diarrhea, shortness of breath, vomiting, tremors, seizures, weakness, and paralysis.

[Compiled from various Internet sources including the Wikipedia, <http://veterinarymedicine.dvm360.com/toxic-effects-disulfoton-pets>, and others.]

Ferrets often will lick their feet during grooming and like to burrow in the soft ground under plants that may be been treated with insecticides.

Avoid areas that you know have been treated (even with "pet safe" chemicals) and consider rinsing or wiping down your ferret after a walk. You obviously don't want to strip the oils in the fur by bathing too often, but pesticide ingestion is worse.



Sasha:

Sasha was born 3/14/09 and she is a sable female. Does NOT like other ferrets. Very playful and lively. Currently in good health.



Amarette & Bradley: Amarette was born 9/5/11, darkish sable female. Has neurological problem that makes her sometimes fall over. Very sweet, gives kisses.

Bradley, dark-eyed white male with ring on his tail. Born 9/1/12. Very playful but does NOT like anyone except Amarette. We think he might be protecting her.



Amarette



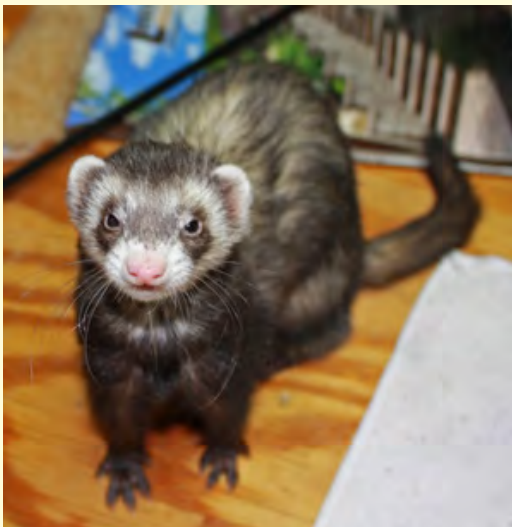
Bradley (goes with Amarette)



Mila

Mila is a playful little sable girl who likes other ferrets and does not bite. She is lively and is happy for attention. Her owner died suddenly and Mila and her sister were surrendered to the shelter by relatives. Unfortunately, Mila's friend also died suddenly and now Mila is all that's left. She is currently living with another ferret and would like a lively playmate to help run off her energy.

Mila enjoys Ferretone and Bandit treats. She must go with a non-smoker as she was subjected to large amounts of secondhand smoke before she came to the shelter.



Sasha

Sasha is a lively little girl. She's very active, plays like a maniac but doesn't like other ferrets. She is currently quite healthy. She lost her buddy, Sidney, a few months ago and now she's a single.



BooBoo

BooBoo is a very sweet albino boy who loves other ferrets. He enjoys playing in tunnels and chasing after balls. He is extremely lovable and gives out tons of kisses! We aren't sure if he is deaf or not yet, but it doesn't stop him from having fun. He is very active and doesn't bite. He has a slight ring around his neck from wearing a collar that was too tight, which is probably permanent.

His favorite treat is peanut butter, but he also loves Ferretone and Ferrevite. He is currently eating a mix of Marshalls, Evo Dog Little Bites, and Orijen Cat/Kitten formula. BooBoo and his group were surrendered because the owner's husband died from a sudden heart attack. He is looking for a forever home with other ferrets and can be separated from his current group. He is being housed with Zeus, Rider, Ziggy, Queen Reina, and Natalia.

BooBoo can jump a Marshall's playpen. Easily.



Brutus



Roscoe

Brutus (silver blaze) and Roscoe (chocolate/sable roan): They are very bonded and must be adopted together. Both are playful and very sweet. They do not like other ferrets. They were surrendered November 2013 because the owners were moving. They enjoy eating the shelter's duck soup and freeze dried raw. Brutus had a Des implant on February 14th 2014.

Roscoe gives kisses and likes being cuddled for a bit. Brutus is all about having fun.



Natalia

Natalia is a sweet light silver female who loves giving kisses! She may be deaf but we aren't sure yet. She was surrendered due to the owner's husband passing away suddenly. She likes other ferrets and does not bite. She would prefer to be in a home with other ferrets and may be separated from her current group.

Her favorite treat is peanut butter, but she also loves Ferretone and Ferrevite. She is currently eating a mix of Marshalls, Evo Dog Little Bites, and Orijen Cat/Kitten formula.



Queen Reina

Queen Reina is a dark sable female who was surrendered due to the sudden death of the owner's husband. She has a very pronounced ring around her neck from where her collar was too tight. The hair most likely will not grow back, but she looks adorable anyway! She loves playing with fishing pole toys (cat chasers) and running with other ferrets. She is looking for a forever home with other ferrets and can be separated from her current group.

Her favorite treat is peanut butter, but she also loves Ferretone and Ferrevite. She is currently eating a mix of Marshalls, Evo Dog Little Bites, and Orijen Cat/Kitten formula.



Rider

Rider is a gorgeous dark eyed white male with the slightest bit of silver running through him. He was surrendered because the owner had too many ferrets. He is being housed with Zeus, BooBoo, Ziggy, Queen Reina, and Natalia. Rider might be deaf, but we aren't sure yet.

He is very attached to Ziggy and they must be adopted together. He loves playing in tunnels and with balls. He enjoys other ferrets and does not bite.

His favorite treat is peanut butter, but he also loves Bandit treats. He is currently eating a mix of Marshalls, Evo Dog Little Bites, and Orijen Cat/Kitten formula.



Pooter



Scooter

Scooter & Pooter: Scooter is a sweet, older, chocolate male. He loves being cuddled and will give kisses. He came to the shelter with dry, thin fur and feeling ill. He was given a Lupron shot for adrenal and has since gained weight and energy. He is currently rather reliably newspaper trained outside the cage (if you own ferrets, you know "reliable" is unusual) and uses the litter pan inside the cage. He enjoys the shelter's duck soup.

Scooter & Pooter, cont.

Scooter is very bonded with Pooter and they are currently housed together. They would probably do well in a house with (gentle) school aged children and older. Scooter might tolerate other gentle ferrets, but it would be best if they were housed together.

Pooter is an extremely lovable champagne male. He is estimated to be about 5 years old. He loves to snuggle and give kisses. He is very interested in people and will follow you around. He enjoys peanut butter as a treat and duck soup. He came into the shelter with bad fur due to the food he was being fed. His fur softened over time and he gained some weight. He is newspaper trained outside the cage (and uses the litter pan inside the cage). He loves playing with fishing pole toys (cat chasers). He may have possible health issues in the future due to his age.



Zeus

Zeus is a beautiful light chocolate male who was surrendered along with 5 other ferrets. Their previous owner's husband died suddenly from a heart attack and Zeus is now looking for his forever home! He would prefer to be with other ferrets and can be separated from the group. He is a very large and active boy that doesn't bite. He loves playing tunnel and chase. He is always on the move!

His favorite treat is peanut butter, but he also loves Ferretone and Ferrevite. He is currently eating a mix of Marshalls, Evo Dog Little Bites, and Orijen Cat/Kitten formula.



Ziggy

Ziggy is a beautiful dark eyed white ferret with silver running throughout, especially on his gorgeous tail! He has a little half stripe on his back as well. He was surrendered along with Rider and they must be adopted together. He enjoys other ferrets and does not bite. He is extremely playful, especially around other ferrets!

His favorite treat is peanut butter, but he also loves Bandit treats. He is currently eating a mix of Marshalls, Evo Dog Little Bites, and Orijen Cat/Kitten formula.

Recognizing Heart Disease

[condensed from an article at <http://tinyurl.com/ku6n3cs>
by Dr. T.J. Morrison]

Breathing: An early sign of a problem is an increase in the respiration rate while sleeping. Normal ferrets breath between 33-36 times per minute, or a little more than once every 2 seconds. If they breath faster than that, or if the abdomen is sucked in when they breath, they need to be checked out.

Cough: A persistent cough, often worse in the morning and evening or after exercise.

Tired: If a ferret either doesn't play, doesn't play as long, and/or takes frequent rests that is always a sign of a problem. If they breath hard after running, that's a bad sign, too. Some animals might actually have pale gums or a blueish tongue.

Fainting: It's not very common, but sometimes a ferret will faint if it has severe heart problems. This is very serious and you should take your ferret to an emergency vet.

Restless: This might be difficult to tell in our hyperactive ferrets, but if a ferret obviously doesn't feel well and rather than play, all they do is wander back and forth like they are looking for a comfortable spot, this could be a bad sign. This can also signal pain.

Weight changes: Weight loss is strongly linked to heart disease, but sometimes they may actually look heavier. If the ferret has a large belly that feels like a water balloon, it may be fluid retention. The water balloon belly isn't really true weight (fat or muscle) and they will often be more boney along the backbone (a sure sign of weight loss and/or muscle wasting).

Ferret Proofing your Couch

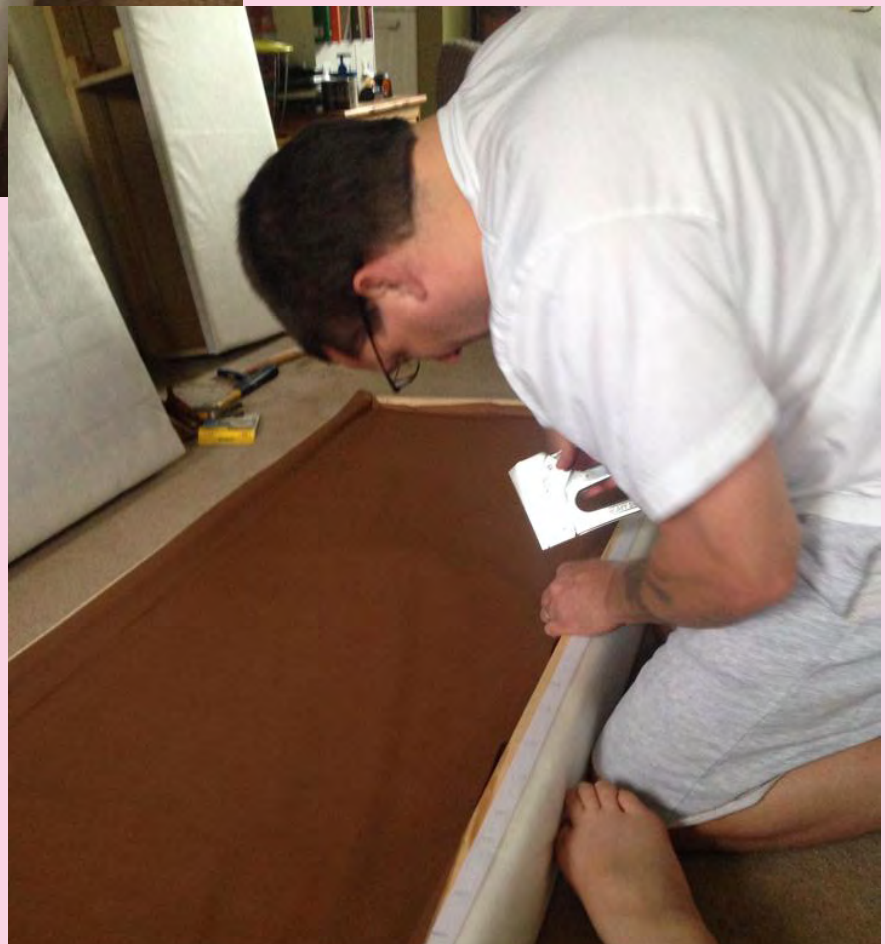
Photos by Lisa Hissong



All you need is a couch, a staple gun and some sturdy fabric.

Lisa said:

We've done this to two sets of sofas now. Our last sofa had a thin bottom and Roo scratched at it until it was very thin and sagging. We ripped it off and recovered it. It doesn't cost much. The fabric I bought was like two dollars a yard. We bought six yards and had more than enough to cover the undersides of the sectional and the ottoman. All that's needed is fabric and a staple gun.



Miscellany

Dates for 2014:

September picnic Sept 21

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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