



Next Meeting:
Sunday, April 19, 2009

12:00 Unload and set up
(Helpers Only Please!)

1:00 Socialize & eat
1:30 Store opens
2:00 Meeting starts: business & reports
3:30 Wrap up and raffle; store closes
4:00 Meeting ends

April 19th Meeting:
Discussion: How to Make "Duck Soup"

You may have read about or heard other people discuss "duck soup" in reference to ferrets. Wonder what it is or what it does? Join us and we will reveal the mysteries of duck soup (not made from ducks by the way). Have a recipe of your own? Please bring it to share.

This soup may save your ferrets life someday, every ferret owner should know what it is and how to make it.

This meeting will be held at the Presbyterian Church of Mt. Washington—located at 213 Bailey Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15211. If you need help with directions, please contact Barb at 412-508-0733 or Chris at 412-915-1694, PAT Bus service is available on the 41E line with a stop right outside the church.



Workshop: May 17th
Sewing for Ferrets

Learn how to make a "sack" style hammock and maybe a few other items, time permitting. Location: Barb Carlson's house—145 Margaret St, Pgh 15210 (Mt. Oliver). Please let Barb know if you have a portable sewing machine that you can bring. Other items you should bring include your favorite fabric, scissors able to cut fabric, and matching thread if you're into that. Please remember, no ferrets at workshops. There are lots of ferrets at Barb's shelter for you to play with instead.

Ferret Awareness Day (Petco: Waterfront)

Saturday, April 18th

It's that time of year again for the Easter Bunny to come to every ferret home in Pittsburgh. Bring your ferret to have photos taken by our semi-professional photographer from the Hide-E-Hole Shelter. For a small donation you can have a print of your photo made. We will be at the Waterfront Petco from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Saturday, May 16th

Every ferret wants a picture with their human mom. Bring your ferret to have your photo taken by our semi-professional photographer from the Hide-E-Hole Shelter, for a small donation. We will be at the Waterfront Petco from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Ferret Show Listings for 2009

5/9/09: Spring Ferret Fandango, Gilbertsville, PA
8/29/09: Buckeye Bash, Columbus, OH
9/26/09: Fall Ferret Fandango, Gilbertsville, PA
10/31/09: Dooktoberfest, Frederick, MD
12/4 & 12/5/09: Winter Nationals, York, PA



In Memoriam

We are remembering the ferrets that have crossed over the Rainbow Bridge; our condolences to their owners. It's been a rough couple months.

Sara Laliberte: JBF's Cameron; Rhonda Wilson:

FFP's Martinsville; Sunni Reitmyer: Rambo; Julie & Ray Cursi: Hannah; Jackie DeCarlo: Laney & Honey; Chris Sayne: SHD's Dookter Dre of FFP; Laura Williams: Notso; Helping Hands Shelter: Mondo, Samson, Andrew, Blitz & Eve; Anita & Michael Mellish: Scooter (9 mths old, heart disease).

TRFC Meetings

If you have never been to a TRFC meeting why wait? We are looking for some new faces! Over 200 people get this mailing and we want to meet you (and your ferrets). If you are no longer interested in receiving mailings from us, please email trferretcouncil@att.net or call 412-431-2830 and leave a message on the voicemail. Otherwise, join us for a session of ferret information, food, shopping, friendship, and of course FERRETS! Ferrets are welcome to attend as long as they are healthy and friendly. You may bring your own play space or share and meet someone new. Meeting lunches are pot-luck style; the club provides drinks and tableware – please bring something to share. If you bring your ferrets with you, make sure that you have paper towels for cleaning up after your ferrets or litter boxes for them to use.

If you have any suggestions for the main lunch meal or have questions on what to bring, please contact Kathy Stewart at kathleenstewart@comcast.net or call 724-845-7935.

TRFC Pampered Fuzzy Store
<http://www.3rfc.org/menu.htm>

Our store is always open for shopping on the web and you can stop by the shelter if you need to purchase something between meetings. If you live locally and buy from the web - Chris will do her best to deliver the items to you for no charge (instead of having them shipped).

Please continue to support the TRFC by purchasing products through the club rather than at pet stores and other internet sites. Our web store has been updated with new prices and items, and new items are being added as they go on the market. The small profit generated by the Pampered Fuzzy Store is what keeps the TRFC

in business with its mailings, postage, meeting space rental fees, educational literature, Holiday Gift Box mailing, etc.

Remember, we are a 501(c)3 nonprofit and none of our volunteers or board members are paid—we do this on our own time—for you and your fuzzies!

TRFC Yahoo Discussion List

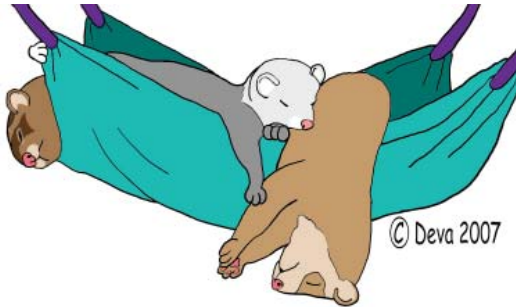
It's easy to join the discussion group—just go to groups.yahoo.com/group/trferretcouncil and join. Or send an email to Barb at bcarlson@andrew.cmu.edu and ask for a link.

TRFC Memberships

New Members for February/March: 0
Renewed Members for February/March: 2
Need to Renew for February/March: 3
Total Paid Members: 25

TRFC Monthly Raffle Donations Needed

The TRFC uses the money from the monthly raffle to pay for the hall rental. If you have (or make) something nice you think someone else might like, consider donating it for the raffle!



Ferret Friends of Pittsburgh News

Kits Available! I have two jills available that were born in November—one champagne and one slightly darker, a light chocolate. These sisters are sweet girls with TONS of energy. They get along with other ferrets and adore playing with humans. \$200 each—they do require spaying between 6 and 9 months of age. See our website for pictures and details.

New FFP website! We now have our own domain name! Visit www.ferretfriendsofpggh.com to see the changes made and new pictures of our ferrets.

Waiting list updates: For those waiting for an FFP kit, I am expecting two litters the weekend of April 10th. FFP's Hurricane Annie was bred to FFP's Viva Las Vegas and should be expecting sable kits. Also, SHD's Rogue was bred to JBF's Thief River Falls of FFP and are expecting chocolate and champagne kits. Please contact me if you are interested in reserving one of these kits.

Special Announcement: Congratulations to FFP's Talladega who was named Roan of the Year 2008 by the American Ferret Association. She received a lovely plaque and the honor of being the first title holder. Tally placed consistently in 2008, with three 1st place wins and a 2nd place finish. We are very proud of Tally, who turned 7 years old in March and is the last daughter we have of our original breeding pair, Confetti & Nanook.



Herbal Treatments

Some herbal treatments can be used in addition to what your vet has prescribed to treat certain illnesses. In fact, some vets are actually prescribing these treatments, they've worked so well.

One of these herbal supplements is **Milk Thistle**. It comes as a yellow powder in a capsule that you open. We've been giving 1/10 of a human dose, although there doesn't seem to be any adverse side effects (beyond that you'll end up stained yellow since the ferrets hate it). This is very, very good for liver issues, and it's innocuous enough that it's not unreasonable to give it to your older ferrets as a preventative.

Another compound that seems to work well is **HepatoSupport**. You can get it from your vet or from the Internet. It contains Milk Thistle, but has other things that definitely help with liver issues. We've been able to get the values down considerably using this. We crush it and add it to duck soup, and they don't seem to mind too much. Or

if they're picky we mix it with water and give it directly.

Essiac is a tried-and-true supplement we've been using for years. It's supposed to be a treatment for cancer. We haven't seen that it makes a significant difference in how long the ferret lives, but we *have* noticed that the ferrets usually feel a lot better and play a lot more. Recently, the TRFC had some trouble getting our usual version of Essiac (over \$100 worth of Essiac arrived damaged and neither Wow-Bow Distributors would accept fault for bad packing or FedEx for smashing the bottles). I recently got some concentrated Essiac from Gaia Herbs, and you only need 4-8 drops. Jackie DeCarlo (our favorite herb-scout) says she found some that did not have alcohol. We'll have to look into her sources.



Hide-E-Hole News

Ferrets In: 5; Deaths: 0; Ferrets Returned to Shelter: 2; Ferrets Adopted: 11; Ferrets in Foster Homes: 7; Ferrets in Shelter Building: 22.

Supplies Needed: Wood pellet litter, paper towels, EVO Dog Little Bites, Clorox Disinfecting Wipes, bleach. Since the TRFC is a 501(c)3, if you keep your receipts you can write them off on your taxes!

Volunteer Opportunities: Cage cleaning, days available: Sunday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday. Financial data entry (on-site by appt). Public relations, FAD dates.

Go to www.ferret-hide-e-hole.org for news on shelter and ferret highlights.

Three Rivers Ferret Council, Inc.
PO Box 5602
Pittsburgh, PA 15207-0602
412-431-2830

www.3rfc.org
trferretcouncil@att.net
A 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization