

# HAPPY VALENTINES DAY

Three Rivers Ferret Council  
Mini - Newsletter  
January 2012



## Next Meeting

Sunday, February 19, 2012

12:00 Unload and set up  
(Helpers only please)

1:00 Socialize & eat

1:30 Store opens

2:00 Meeting starts: business & reports

3:00 Wrap up & Raffles, store closes

4:00 Meeting Adjourned

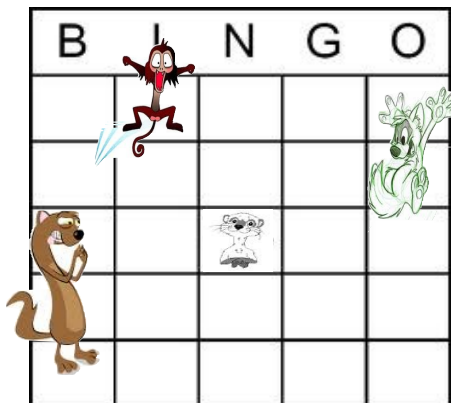


## February 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting

### CRAZY THEIVING BINGO

At January's meeting we'll be playing "Crazy Thievin' Bingo!" You can win, lose, and win the same prize over and over while teasing your friends! There will be lots of little prizes, both ferrety and not.

This is NOT your ordinary bingo game!



## 10 FERRET CARE TIPS TO ENHANCE YOUR FERRET'S LIFE

BY MARYLOU ZARBOCK

Part of the joy of owning ferrets is witnessing a ferret live life to its fullest. Whether a ferret jumps around on bed covers, dashes and stashes a squeaky toy, or sleeps in the oddest position ever, a ferret's everyday antics usually bring a smile to its owner's face.

As a ferret owner, you're probably doing a lot to increase your ferret's chances of living life to the fullest. So check out the top 10 Ferret Care Tips by Marylou Zarbock ; founder and operator since 1995 of FerretWise Rescue and Rehabilitation Center in Marlborough, NH.

**1) Play/Interact with your ferret everyday.** This tip is very important to your ferret. Not only does it increase bond you share between you and your ferret, it enriches the ferret's life. Ferrets can become bored easily, which can cause stress. Playtime with you fuels your ferrets' mental processes and provides physical exercise. Petting your ferret or holding them while watching TV, also qualities.

**2) Ferret-proof any rooms your ferret can access.** This is the most important concern for ferret owner's. Ferret's are VERY CURIOUS and FLEXABLE. They can be drawn to places and things people might not expect. This can be a deadly combination if a home isn't ferret-proofed. This requires a lot of thinking like a ferret in removing possible dangers, especially during the holidays. Ferret-proofing the whole house is the best thing to do, for ferret's seem to not always stay where they are suppose to.

**3) Feed an appropriate diet.** Ferrets are obligate carnivores, and food passes through the digestive system of a ferret very quickly. They also lack the ability to derive nutrition from plant matter. For this reason, a ferret diet must be high in animal protein, high in fat, and low in fiber. All foods, including foods intended solely for ferrets, are not created equally, so be careful what you are feeding your ferret. Basic requirements are;

- \* High in protein - 30-40% on the label nutrition analysis.
- \* Protein must be high quality, highly digestible, and be animal-based (not plant-based)
- \* High in fat (at least 20%, perhaps up to 20% on the label analysis)
- \* Very LOW in carbohydrates and fiber (less than 3% fiber)

**4) Know your ferret's habits.** Like when does your ferret wake up, go to sleep, eat, play, and go to the bathroom. Knowing their habit will help you know more about their health as well. Like, are they sleeping longer, not playing as much. These are some signs that you ferret is not feeling well.

**5) House your ferret at the proper temperature.** And humidity. Heat is usually more of a concern for ferrets than cold. Ferrets are susceptible to heatstroke's and cannot tolerate temperatures above 80 degrees. Reason for this is ferret's do not have sweat glands.

**6) Train your ferret to come when called:** Why is this important? Ferrets tend to escape and if there is a emergency, you will need something they will come too. I shake a can of treats. Also establish a emergency plan. I have a pillow case in my room so I can get mine really quick.

**7) Provide darkness for your ferret:** It' theorized that ferrets do best if they live in an environment that mimics outdoor lighting. To much light exposure lowers the body's natural melatonin production, and that can help to set the stage for adrenal disease.

**8) Provide regular veterinary care:** Ferrets need regular veterinary care, just like dogs and cats do, but finding a ferret-knowledgeable veterinarian can be difficult. Once you find a vet that is knowledgeable, build a relationship with them by going on regular visits. This will detect any problems earlier.

**9) Create a savings account for your ferret.** Unexpected expenses always come up with ferrets. Usually these involve veterinary care above and beyond regular visits. Having a savings account ensures that you can respond quickly when a need suddenly arises.

**10) Continue to educate your self about ferrets:** The more you know about ferrets the better your care will be. Education and life experiences will make you a better ferret owner as well. And don't forget lots and lots of love!





Gone But Not Forgotten

GERONIMO - Barb C.

We are remembering the ferrets that have crossed over the Rainbow Bridge.

Our condolences to their owners. If you would like your ferret to be remembered, send the appropriate information to [trfc@3rfc.org](mailto:trfc@3rfc.org)

### WON'T YOU PLEASE HELP

How about a New Years Resolution to help out your local shelter. With your donations, shelter ferrets can get needed medical care and find a good home. You may also consider visiting the Hide-E-Hole no-kill Ferret Shelter and offer your support by spending a few hours cleaning cages. You can donate supplies as well. You may want to consider adopting or become a foster home for a shelter ferret.



### Activities for the year 2012

We like to remind everyone that our meetings are every third Sunday of each month unless otherwise stated. If you are not sure, don't hesitate to call Barb. We need some ideas for our 2012 Sunday activities. Is there something that you'd like to do or see? Something that we haven't done or use to do and would like to do again.



R.I.P. Geronimo 01/26/2012

Some of you may already know that my beloved ferret, Geronimo, died recently. He had mega-esophagus and breathed in food and water, which gave him pneumonia. The condition was most likely due to lymphoma of the gastrointestinal tract, but that wasn't confirmed.

I am grateful that I spent extra time with him over my Christmas vacation, and that I took so many photos of him. For everyone out there, I urge you to stop right now and take some photos of your ferrets. Write down the cute and funny and annoying things they do. Take photos of the disasters they cause (like digging out plants, etc.) because those are the things you will remember with fondness later.

Geronimo was such a character. He had a huge personality and was very, very smart. He did so many things that were serious problems at the time (pulling the cover off the heater vent and getting into the furnace duct work, for example) but those things made for great stories later. I wrote a series of humorous articles about him called "Letters to my Ferret". I'm glad I did, because it helps me remember how much of a character he was. We never know how long we'll have. Make the most of your time now so there are no regrets later.

Barb Carlson

### TRFC YAHOO GROUP DISCUSSION LIST

Tap into the wealth of advice and information. Join the TRFC Yahoo discussion list! It's easy-just ask Barb at ([bcarlson@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:bcarlson@andrew.cmu.edu)) for an invitation link, click on the link and you're done!



### MEMBERSHIP INFO

NEW: Joe Rembisz

RENEWED: MaryAnn Yeso, Mark and Terri Vietmeier

NEEDS TO RENEW: No One

TOTAL MEMBERS: 34

### SHELTER UPDATE

#### STATISTICS:

Surrendered: 4

Adopted: 7

Died: 1

In foster care: 6

Total in shelter: 16

