

Rabbit, Rodent & Ferret News



Learn the Language of your Small Companion Animal

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by Candice M. Bush on page 8.

Thank
You...

To our donors and
volunteers, you are an
important part of our
family.

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animal may turn out to be
your perfect match. Page 3.

Hey Rabbit! Eat Hay!

Dr. Barbara Deeb, DVM
explains the nutrition of hay on
page 12.

On the Cover:

Cassie, Telea and Oscar are looking for loving adoptive homes.
Read more about them as well as some of our other adoptable
ferrets on page 9.

Rabbit, Rodent & Ferret News is a quarterly newsletter published by the Best Little Rabbit, Rodent & Ferret House, dba House Rabbit Society. Every reasonable effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information in this newsletter, however the editors and Rabbit, Rodent & Ferret House assume no responsibility for unintentional errors, omissions, and especially typos.

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The BLRRFH Shelter has Curb Appeal!

We have dressed up our awnings thanks to a donation from Veronica Skeels. Our new signs can easily be seen from the street and will attract customers and adopters. Thank you Veronica!

Rabbit, Rodent & Ferret News Underwriter Needed

You can help us to educate people about small companion animals, recognize our donors and volunteers for their generosity, give the animals in our shelter much needed exposure so they can find permanent loving homes and ensure more of each membership dollar goes to direct care. All of our design work, collating, folding and mail prep is done by volunteers making our publication relatively inexpensive, but we must incur the expense of printing and postage. If you are interested in underwriting our newsletter, please contact Sandi at (206) 365-9105 or Sandi@RabbitRodentFerret.org. Thank you!

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Your membership and donation dollars help support our rescued rabbits, rodents and ferrets. Please help us help the animals.

Scamp: A Love Story

by Susan M. Grossman

An older, special-needs animal may turn out to be your perfect match

MATURE GENTLEMAN ISO LT RELATIONSHIP. Silver-haired male, HWP, seeks lifetime companionship. I sometimes have a little respiratory trouble, but I'm still a lively, handsome fellow. Hobbies include playing hide n' seek, wrestling, giving kisses, cuddling, eating, chasing, chewing, unfolding the laundry, and taking things apart. You be playful, affectionate, reliable, and ready to commit to growing old with me. Bonus points if someone in your household is spayed.

We fell in love with the picture on the Web site before we even met him. The bright-eyed rat in the photo, standing on his hind legs and licking his chops, exuded a zest for life. The caption said that "Scamp," due to his respiratory problems, was considered unadoptable and had become a shelter rat for the Best Little Rabbit, Rodent, and Ferret House. My husband and I looked at the photo. "Do you think they'd part with him?" I said. "There's only one way to find out," he answered, and off we went to the shelter.

An older animal with compromised health might not be everyone's idea of a perfect pet. But we had a particular set of needs in mind.

Almost three years after we'd adopted a litter of pups and their mom, we had only two rats left, and we knew that one was destined to cross the Rainbow Bridge soon. Our girl Shadow had been depressed over the loss of her colony-mates for some time, and she was devoted to her remaining sister, Nova. Nova for the past few months had done little but eat and sleep, but she and Shadow were still close and Shadow was very solicitous of her. A shy rat, Shadow had never bonded very closely with us, and we knew we wouldn't be able to console her when Nova's time came. We wondered if the kindest thing would be to euthanize Shadow as well when her sister died, since we thought we'd probably lose her to grief and loneliness anyway. We didn't feel we could ethically get a new rat to keep her company,

because our colony had mycoplasma, a contagious disease that targets rats' lungs, and introducing a rat to Shadow would be dooming the new rat to a lifetime of illness.

Then it occurred to me that perhaps we could adopt a rat who already had mycoplasma. Because Shadow is a senior, we wanted an older rat. We decided to look for a male because Shadow had been very close with our male rats. With her retiring nature, she was the perfect match for a dominant male—and for our part, we missed having a male rat around. Males are often cuddlier with humans than lively, darting little females, and we had never stopped missing our sweet "king" rat, Blaze. Shadow had also become sedentary and gained a lot of weight when her sister stopped playing active games with her, and we hoped to find a rat who would coax Shadow into running and playing again.

For our needs, Scamp was our dream rat. He was an unneutered male who was so dominant that he'd lived by himself in all his time at the shelter, as he couldn't be placed with an unneutered female and would fight with other males. He was lively, mischievous, playful, and friendly. We worried about his harsh breathing but secured the shelter's promise that we could bring him back if the vet said he was terribly compromised or if he couldn't get along with Shadow or adjust to his new home.

For the first ten days or so we worried about whether Scamp would adjust and wondered if we should bring him back. We had been very reluctant to take him from the shelter; he was closely bonded to shelter employees and volunteers, and we felt like we were kidnapping a child. Shelter staff had to assure us over and over that all animals at the shelter were available for adoption, and as much as Scamp was loved, it would be better for him to have a private home. And Scamp didn't seem very happy in his new home. He was polite to us, but it was clear that he was sad and confused. He almost immediately had a very bad respira-

tory flare-up that we attributed to stress, and we started him on antibiotics, prednisone, and symptomatic treatment to make him more comfortable. We tried not to force our friendship on him but gave him treats, allowed him explore our bedroom (where we put his cage) and interact with us at will, and let him "talk" to Shadow through the bars of his cage.

After a few weeks Scamp perked up and appeared to make a decision that he now belonged with us. He began greeting us when we came in and started initiating games with us. He developed a mania for playing hide n' seek under the blankets, popping in and out of burrows like a little silver-and-white jack-in-the-box. We discovered that he took ferocious joy in new toys—but only briefly, because the thing he likes most about new toys is tearing them apart. We haven't found a toy yet that he can't destroy within ten minutes, as hard plastic is no contest and most rat or cat toys don't come in stainless-steel or concrete models. He loves wrestling with hands and stalking feathers. I knew he had bonded with me when, upon being startled, he ran across the room to dive into my armpit instead of dashing back to his cage to hide.

But the most joyful change in Scamp's life is that he now has a rat companion. Shadow is the love of Scamp's life. It's a more-or-less platonic love, as Shadow's been neutered since puberty, but a deep, abiding, and committed love all the same. It's only recently that Scamp's been willing to leave her side for more than a few minutes. Watching him ecstatically lick, groom, and cuddle her makes us smile, and watching them wrestle and chase each other makes us laugh. As a wonderful bonus, he has taught Shadow to run and play again, and she has lost weight as a result of her increased activity. She has also become far less shy and, observing her knight in shining armor playing and snuggling with the humans, has begun to entertain the notion that we might be good for something other than dispensing food.

Cont'd on page 10

Rabbit Speak

(Caution this article may contain bad language)

By Sandi

Rabbits sometimes remind me of irritable drivers. You can be minding your own business just driving down the road, and another driver will suddenly honk at you and yell something indiscernible. Same thing with rabbits. You can be sitting there, just watching TV and your rabbit nudges your ankle once and then 2 seconds later will trounce off, after giving you a THUMP and a tail twitch. You'll have no idea what upset him.

For an animal without a voice, rabbits are excellent communicators. Rabbits actually do make a variety of sounds & vocalizations. They "snuffle," "snort," "huff," and make other noises that I can't spell. Unless you're holding them with their mouth close to your ear, you may not hear their attempts to communicate. And even if you hear, you may not understand.

Vocalizations that you may hear from a distance are "growls" often accompanied by a lunge. And a "humming" sound usually done while circling your feet. Everyone's probably aware of the rabbit "scream" that sometimes occurs at death. However, rabbits may also scream when being attacked or chased off by another rabbit. That scream seems to indicate "I give up!" They may also scream when anticipating a bad situation "Somebody help me!" This can occur at the vet's office in anticipation of that stick-with-numbers-on-it-coming-towards-my-tail.

Talking among themselves

Having dealt with several

different feral rabbit populations, as well as my usual domestic friends, I've found it interesting to discover that rabbits don't all speak the same language. The rabbits at Woodland Park are mostly European Rabbit/domestic mix and we relocated many to the sanctuary and introduced them to the Redmond Business Park Rabbits. When they first met, it reminded me of what it's like to be in a foreign country. I recognize the people as being like me, but I can't understand what they're saying. The same thing happened when we introduced a third group, the Aqua Barn rabbits to the sanctuary rabbits. Rabbits use body language for a lot of their communication and the posturing of the different groups, was just different enough that they seemed unable to understand one another for several weeks. One rabbit would seem to posture, "Hi, how are ya" and the other rabbit would return, "How dare you call me that!"

Boy am I mad at you!

His back is turned towards you in a show of deliberate snubbing. A loud single THUMP when you put him back into his house. Lunging and striking with his front feet. This can occur when you try to clean his house with him in it.

I am filled with so much joy, that I just can't stand it!

Leaping straight up into the air! Doing 90 turns. Doing 180 turns! Running away and clicking his feet into the air. A silly head shake can be accompanied by a little jump off the ground. Grinding his molars.

Sez You! (Sassing)

I don't want to go to bed. THUMP! Tail flipping rapidly side to side while running away.

(Yes, he is flipping you off.)

I'm Starving!

Standing on back legs in begging position. Circling your feet, sometimes seeming to attempt to trip you. On your chest trying to take the banana out of your mouth. Found in the middle of the table eating from the fruit bowl.

I don't feel well

Sitting hunched in a "bread box" position. His hair will look rumpled, his eyes dull. Stretching, arching his back, rising up on his front legs. This can indicate gas pain.

Other communications

You can probably judge what a rabbit is thinking by looking at how he positions his ears. When his ears are straight up pointing forward, he may be listening to something you can't hear, or he's ready to get into trouble or may be just curious. If his ears are laid flat on his back he may be frightened or mad. Lop eared rabbits often position their ears straight out to the side to listen intently to something you can't hear. Each rabbit is an individual and just as rabbits who come from different warrens communicate differently, so will your rabbit. If you pay attention, you'll soon figure out just what it is he's saying to you.

Establishing warren order

You must become the top rabbit in your warren! If your rabbit nips you, whatever you do, don't let him have his way. If he nips to be put down, do not put him down, continue holding him for at least another 2 minutes. If he nips to make you move out of his way, thump at him and stand your ground. Giving in to your rabbit makes him think that he is the top rabbit and teaches him that these behaviors get him what he wants.

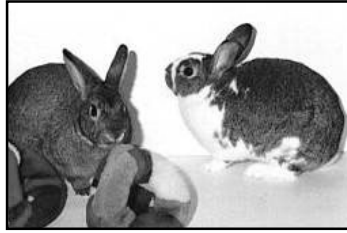
Teddy, pictured in the background, is available for adoption through the BLRRFH shelter.

Adopt A Rabbit



Tyra

Tyra is beautiful orange, 1 year old bunny. She loves attention and adores the companionship of her human friends. Tyra is very energetic and always wants to know and get involved with what is going on around her.



Minnow and Tadpole

Minnow (left, female) and Tadpole (right, male) were born on 9/15/02. Adopted when they were 8 weeks old, they were returned when the "kids lost interest". They are very loving with each other and also with their human friends. Adopt a rabbit, only if the adult wants them. Don't get a rabbit for a child, they WILL loose interest.



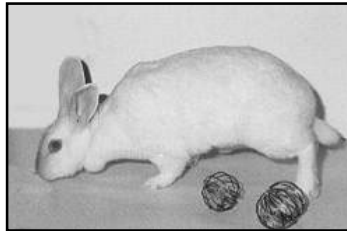
Bugs

Bugs is the sweetest, softest guy you could ever meet and he adores attention. We're currently treating both ears for an infection (lop eared bunnies need someone to pay attention to keeping their ears clean), but he should be ready to go to a new home soon.



Morgana

Morgana is a beautiful black velvety rabbit. She has incisors that don't quite meet and is currently having her teeth trimmed twice a month. Bunnies with misaligned teeth, can make excellent house companions, as they can't gnaw on your belongings. We can teach you how to trim her teeth, or we can do it for you.



Candy

Candy is a fun loving 1 year old girl. She adores being the center of attention and loves to explore. She will be an entertaining and loving companion.



Bean and Poppy

Bean (right) is a tiny 2 pound bunny about 2 years old, she has a good personality ... for a dwarf. Poppy (left) was born Sept. 2003 at Woodland Park. She's been with us since she was 8 weeks old, and is a little cautious when meeting new people. They are a tightly bonded pair and want a home together.



Natasha

Natasha is a lovely down eared girl, probably 2 years old. She has a joyful personality and is very active. She is looking for a family to love.

Rabbits can be wonderful companions, but are not for everyone. They have the intelligence of a 2-3 year old child and will challenge you at every turn. They understand what "no" means, but also understand when your back is turned! They can frustrate you if you allow them to run around unsupervised, or if you have not "bunny proofed" your home. On the other hand rabbits seem to have a great sense of humor. They will do joyful dances, leaping high into the air. They totally understand that they are entertaining you when you laugh out loud at their antics. Rabbits are social animals and prefer to live in pairs. There is nothing that warms your heart more than watching two bunnies laying side by side grooming one another. If you have a single bunny, please consider adopting a companion. We do bunny bonding at our shelter and send them home as a happy couple.

Adoption fee for a spayed or neutered rabbit is \$60. Adoption fee for our paired rabbits is \$100.

"LEARN THE LANGUAGE OF GUINEA PIGS"

By Mary Lawson of Cavy Companions

Those of us who share our homes and lives with guinea pigs are rewarded in part with a myriad of noises and movements. Some are easy to interpret; others seem mysterious. In this issue, I will tell you what your guinea pigs are saying – by their voices and by their bodies.

"WHEEK-WHEEK" or "WHEEP-WHEEP"

This is the most common, and easiest to recognize, sound a guinea pig makes. It can be heard at various times, including whenever the refrigerator door is opened, or a plastic produce bag is being grabbed, or a potato chip bag is opened, or even when a particular human enters the room. Guinea pigs are pros when it comes to asking for food, and they have no problem vocalizing their request. The louder the better, as if to say "if you didn't hear me the first 6 times, then I'll keep on until you give me something to eat." Obviously, "wheeking" is one of the "good" noises, and it plays a major role in why guinea pigs are such endearing little creatures.

"CLUCK-CLUCK" or "TUT-TUT"

This is a lovely sound to hear! It is the cavy version of small talk, or chatter. It's a sign of happiness and contentment, and it can warm your heart to listen to a guinea pig cluck-clucking as she putters around the cage.

"RUMBLING," or "MOTOR-BOATING"

These sounds are most often heard from males, though when unsplayed females are in heat they too can

"rumble." Rumbling is part of the hormonal "dance of love" and is the male's way of trying to get the female's attention. The noise is often made while the male sways his rear end, and is his way of saying, "look at what a great fellow I am." It often appears that the female is completely uninterested, but she knows very well what he is saying and trying to do.

Male guinea pigs are very insistent upon getting the female's attention. She, however, has several ways to handle the situation: (1) using a back leg, she can try to kick the male, (2) if he gets too close, she will turn and give him a nip, or (3) she will hike up her back end and squirt him with urine. Now you'd think that any or all of these tricks in combination would be off-putting to a boy. Not so! Any or all of the above methods could be used many times in the female's attempt to get through to the male that she is not only not interested but also for him to "buzz off."

"PURRING"

Purring is also one of the "good" noises guinea pigs make and indicates that they are happy, or whatever you are doing feels good, or what you are doing tickles. Some guinea pigs never purr, which doesn't mean they aren't happy. It just may be that they see no reason to reward you for something you should be doing anyway!

TEETH "CLACKING" or "CHATTERING"

This is the one noise guinea pigs make that is NOT a good one. It may be heard in several situations and always means agitation: (1) something or someone scared your guinea pig, (2) two newly-introduced guinea pigs don't like each other at all, or (3) these same newly-introduced guinea pigs are going to fight if you don't intervene. Teeth clacking can also be accompanied by raised fur, i.e. your guinea pigs look like they've been fluff-dried.

If your guinea pigs are bonded, or have lived together happily for a

while, and you hear teeth clacking, it's most likely that an unfamiliar movement or noise has frightened them. To calm the situation, try to find out what scared them and talk to the guinea pigs in a reassuring voice.

Be VERY cautious about introducing a new guinea pig to your own guinea pigs. This is best done by the experts at Cavy Companions or Best Little Rabbit Rodent & Ferret House. If you decide to do-it-yourself, be aware that teeth-clacking indicates upset, fright, and/or a prelude to fighting. The second you hear teeth chattering, you should remove the new guinea pig from the cage, but WEAR HEAVY GLOVES when doing so. Guinea pigs are by nature very gentle; however, in a situation that is threatening to them they can, and often will, bite in self-defense. It doesn't matter to them if your hands are in the way at that moment; all they know is that they are frightened, they see something in front of their faces, and they strike.

WHISTLING or CHIRPING LIKE A BIRD

This is perhaps the most unusual, and rare, sound a guinea pig can make. Many people have never heard it as many guinea pigs never make it. There is, however, no mistaking it. By the guinea pig rubbing her teeth together, she produces a sound exactly like that of a small bird whistling. What is particularly eerie about this is that while a guinea pig makes this noise all other guinea pigs in the home will remain utterly still as if listening to the sound. No one knows why a guinea pig makes this noise, and if you ever hear it you too will probably stand utterly still to listen!

Learning to listen for, and pay attention to, guinea pig body language and sounds is fairly easy because they are so predictable. Guinea pigs are simple creatures who communicate with each other, and their human caretakers, very effectively and very often. Next time you have your guinea pigs out for exercise, get down on their level, i.e. the floor, and just watch and listen. You can learn a lot about your companion cavy this way, and they are willing teachers!

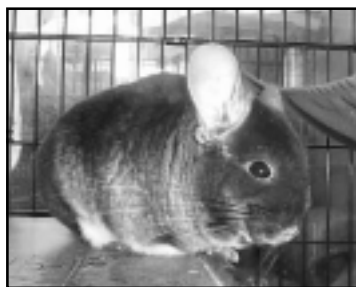
Flora and Pepe, pictured in the background, are available for adoption through Cavy Companions.

Adopt A Rodent



Ben and Jerry

Ben and Jerry are 2 1/2 year old boys who were surrendered together and are very good friends. They are looking for a loving home together where they can remain friends forever.



Pele

Pele is a beautiful female black chinchilla. She is looking for a loving home, possibly with a neutered boy chinchilla to talk to.



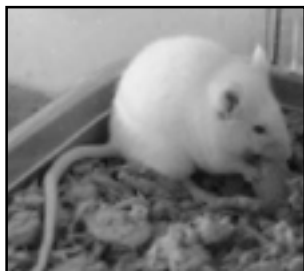
Kaiser

Kaiser is a 2 year old orange and white, short haired guinea pig with lots of personality. He is looking for a human to call his best friend



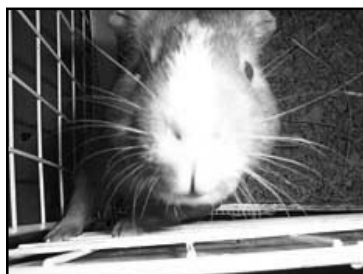
Gardner

Gardner is a white rat with an outgoing personality. He lives with his brother and they're looking for a home together.



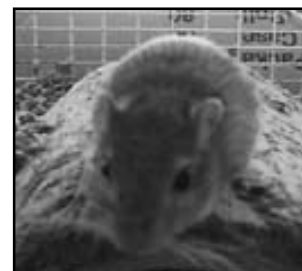
Baxter

Baxter is a very social and friendly albino mouse, he is about 6 months old. Baxter is looking forward to finding a loving family to call his own.



Pringle

Pringle, a 2 year old guinea pig (pictured here, standing on his hind feet, looking for a treat). He loves attention from his human friends...and food.



Petunia

Petunia is a very curious female gerbil who lives with her two sisters. The family is looking for a loving home together.

(Hamsters, gerbils and mice are generally not good companions for small children. Because of their size, a child can easily drop or injure them.)

Rodents are intelligent, curious and social animals who do best in pairs or family groups. They make wonderful and amusing companions to their human families as well. Rodents seem to always be on the go, building nests, communicating with their kin, playing, grooming and exploring.

Adoption fees: \$10 - for mice, gerbil and hamster family groups, whether individuals or paired.

\$10 - for individual rats

\$45 - for individual spayed/neutered guinea pigs

\$50 - for individual spayed/neutered chinchillas, \$85/pair

\$50 - for degu pair (male neutered)

**** Gerbils, Chinchillas, Degus & Hamsters all enjoy daily dustbaths! ****

FERRET BODY LANGUAGE

Candice M. Bush

Observe your ferret closely and you will soon learn that, though your companion is largely mute, he or she has much to say. One of the most joyful messages "I'm so excited! Please play with me!" is demonstrated by what is commonly called the "Weasel War Dance". The ferret typically takes a few steps back with head held high, back arched, and legs extended. He then starts springing up and down and sidewise while throwing the head about with mouth open, often bouncing off furniture with alarming disregard for personal safety. If on a couch or bed, he is very likely to dance right off the edge. A ferret prone to vocalization will often make a dooking or chuckling noise while dancing.

While play-fighting in a tight spot, like a tube, many ferrets will face each other with their mouths wide open and upper limbs extended. They seem to be saying "My mouth is bigger than yours". Some ferrets will rapidly wag the tail when they corner another in play in great excitement, "I'm gonna get you! I'm gonna get'cha now! "Eeeek!" may be spoken or not, but a bottle-brushed tail is a sure sign of excitement or fear as the ferret moves rapidly either

to attack or retreat.

"Flat ferreting" or "speed bumping" is a bit of body language that may carry various messages. This is the ferret who suddenly lays flat out, tummy down with hind legs extended, not moving, but with eyes wide open and alert. "I'm thinking what I can get into next" or "I'm bored and there's nothing FUN to do" or even "I'm invisible" are possible interpretations. I have found that a ferret who suddenly starts following you around and flat-ferreting at your feet may be saying "I don't feel good" and a visit to the vet may be in order.

Anyone who has bathed a ferret is familiar with the "after bath frenzy," which only seems to happen if there was soap involved. The victimized mustalid streaks rapidly about stopping to rub frantically on rugs, towels, paper, and even to roll or "snorkel" in litter. I think he's saying "What happened to my beautiful odor? Quick! Get it back!"

The butt-scoot after toileting is commonly considered to be a marking behavior and not a sign of illness. "This is MY territory" would be the message here. Does your ferret suddenly stop whatever he's doing to scratch frantically? This is common and normal, but if excessive may be a sign of a problem. I have noticed that ferrets with ear mites sometimes scratch themselves all over and if I get the message and treat the mite

problem, the scratching decreases dramatically. Struggling while getting ears cleaned, pushing the handlers' hands away, and generally behaving like a worm on a hook are other hints that "all is not well with my ears".

Trembling upon waking is your ferret's way to raise his temperature from the sleeping low to the wakeful higher level. Nothing to worry about here.

Your young or un-socialized ferret may nip your foot or ankle to get your attention, but once he learns that you don't like to be bitten you may notice him getting your attention in other ways. "Pay attention to me, I want something" can be conveyed by a dainty bump on your ankle with a wet nose as he stands on your foot. Ignore that message and you may next feel that wet nose smeared several inches up your ankle. Look down at that adorable face that seems to say "pick me up, I want to see what you're doing up there" or "time for a treat." Ignore the message at your own risk because the next message may be a more insistent lick-lick-nip. Answer the call now and you have just taught your ferret that the best way to get your attention is a nip. Communication goes both ways.

There are many more subtle examples of body language you will notice if you watch your ferrets closely, particularly if you have more than one ferret who can interact with each other. Knowing your ferret's particular language is also important because if you notice a change it is time to look closer to determine if he's telling you that it's time for a veterinary exam.

Live Adoption Area Cameras

The BLRRFH shelter cares for hundreds of rabbits, rodents and ferrets each year. To help increase visibility and interest in our adoptable animals and to help ensure their safety, we are planning on installing live security and internet cameras.

In our new shelter, the adoption areas are located toward the back and cannot always be seen by staff or volunteers and we have had a dishonest member of the public attempt to steal a ferret. BLRRFH is committed to ensuring the safety of the animals in our care and feel that incorporating security cameras into the adoption areas will discourage theft and keep our animal friends safe.

Live internet cameras will enable us to increase the visibility of our adoptable animals and capture all the fun and excitement of our rabbits, rodents and ferrets at play on our web site, www.RabbitRodentFerret.org.

You can make our dream a reality by donating cash, equipment or expertise to the Live Adoption Area Camera Fund. For more information, please contact Sandi at (206)365-9105 or Sandi@RabbitRodentFerret.org. Thank You!

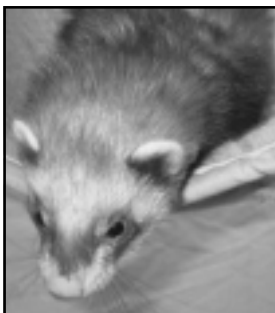
Harley, pictured in the background above, is available for adoption at the BLRRFH shelter.

Adopt a Ferret



Chu

Chu is a dark sable ferret with a happy and friendly personality. He loves to play with both his human and ferret friends.



Minna

Minna is a sable ferret with a very playful and mischievous personality. She is looking for a home with a family who has ferret experience as she has a tendency to play rough with hands.



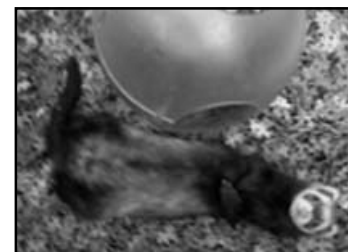
Scrappy

Scrappy is a dark sable ferret with white toes. He loves to play with his human and ferret friends and has an outgoing personality.



Mimi

Mimi is a beautiful sable ferret who gets along with other ferrets. She adores being held and spending time just cuddling with her human friends.



Cosmo

Cosmo is a dark sable ferret with a happy-go-lucky outlook on life. He adores playing with other ferrets and his human friends and loves being the center of attention.



Cassie, Telea and Oscar

Cassie is a dark sable girl who has a playful and loving personality. Telea is a marked white girl, looking for an experienced ferret home who can give her a lot of attention. Oscar is a light champagne colored ferret, he is a bit rambunctious and very playful.



Jabba

Jabba is a butterscotch colored ferret with a sweet and playful disposition. He loves other ferrets and adores attention from his human friends.



Sammy and Shane

Sammy and Shane are sable ferrets who love people and other ferrets. They are both very playful but also love to quietly cuddle with their human friends.

Ferrets are full of joy and seem to think life is very funny! They are social animals and need to be kept in pairs (they play hard as only another ferret can and rest even harder). If you decide a ferret is the right companion for you, please plan on bringing them into your home when you have at least 2-3 weeks to train them to use the litterbox and to come to a squeaky toy. Currently, we have close to 60 ferrets at the shelter who are waiting to find their human companions. Some of the ferrets in our shelter are considered "permanent residents" because their age or health makes it hard to find adoptive homes, so we are always on the lookout for foster homes for them. If you are interested in fostering or adopting, please come visit us at the shelter.

The adoption fee for a healthy younger ferret is \$100. This includes distemper vaccination, a microchip (so they can find their way home if ever lost) and their teeth have been cleaned.

Thank You...

...To our donors

Your generosity enables us to save and improve the lives of countless rabbits, rodents and ferrets. Thank you for being there.

Jane Alberts

Matt Andrews and Alayne Boyko

Wm. and Debbie Arthur

John and Tracy Ball, *in loving memory of Junior "Doon Doon" Cat and Stuart "The Soose" Mouse*

Robert Blue

Shari Briggs

Sandy Brittan

Alisa and Ed Brooks, *in loving memory of Bailey and McGhee*

Vidette Buchman

Joanne Burtch

Candice Bush

Mary Byrd

Roxie Common

Dennis and Paula Conner

Christine Cordell

Kaye Counts and David Amdal

Yuko Dailey

Rebecca Donley, *in loving memory of Roo*

Susan Gabriel

Susie and Larry Gearheard

Richard Hammond

Christine Hansen

Peggy Hanson

Rick and Leanne Hawkins

Wayne Hom

Darlene and Ken Howe

Gayle Janzen

Catherine Kemmerer

Thomas Kremenski and Barbara Crothers

Quak Wan Ling, *in loving memory of Min Min*

Daniel and Cleone Maines

Gerrie Margell

Lisa Marsh

Tania Means

Mary Menard

Mistletoe

Jen Munson

Nonnie II Beloved Bunny Memorial Fund

Beverly and John Orr, *in honor of Sandie & Devin*

Bonnie Parrish

James Reeve

Kathy Renzo

Alice Ruby

Veronica Skeels

Paul Terry

Donna Timmerman

Phillip and Regenal Voyk

Kathleen Wakefield

Kelly Ward

Susan Warme

Cliff Watson

Paul Watts

Kevin and Christine Welton

Michael and Cindylee White, *in loving memory Harvey, Guido, Esmeralda, Helen, Lizzie*

In Loving Memory of our Ferret Friends

Freddy

Quigley and Foxy

Kiwi

Larry

In Loving memory of our Rabbit Friends

Mimi

Pookie

Jackie

Nose Bob

Max

Hemlock

Roo

Jessie

Sancho

In Loving Memory of our Rodent Friends

Doug the chin

Ham & Hammie

Cont'd from page 3

Adopting an older, special-needs animal isn't without its drawbacks. Having been "re-homed" at least twice in his life, Scamp gets anxious easily and needs reassurance when anything out of the ordinary happens. His lungs are scarred from the mycoplasma, and we need to keep him on fairly expensive antibiotics. Whenever he gets stressed, he has a flare-up, and every flare-up frightens us and scars his lungs a little further. We know that a rat's life is ephemeral under the best of circumstances, and at eighteen months – two years of age, Scamp might not have as much time to share with us as a younger rat could. But then again, love is always a gamble. We will enjoy Scamp's time with us for as long as he is with us, and we will always be grateful for his presence in our lives.

... And they all lived happily ever after.

Susan Grossman is a writer and fiction editor. She is the author of a children's book on piranhas and has written or managed several award-winning CD-ROMs about animals for Microsoft. She lives in Kirkland with her husband and a whole lot of critters.

...To our Volunteers!

Without our volunteers we could not do what we do to help the animals. Many thanks to the following individuals who have contributed their time for a variety of tasks and projects.

Colin Blakley, *shelter help*

Danielle Brewer, *shelter help*

Candice Bush, *health care items and a wonderful pumpkin/ turkey soup for our ferrets*

Beth Carroll, *accounting*

Kate Gloor, *shelter help*

Danielle Good, *shelter help*

Charlie Ham, *constructing another door for a 3rd play and exercise area*

Linda Keating, *brushing/ loving bunnies*

Jeff Klima, *for keeping our transport van going*

Gerrie Margel, *for a constant supply of chicken soup for our ferrets*

Briana and Mas Podgorny, *rodent cage cleaning*

Jana Rickels, *for a blood glucose monitor*

Danica Safrin, *shelter help*

Jill Tamane, *shelter help*

Mitzi Willbanks, *ferret blankets and hammocks*



Volunteer Spotlight

Briana and Mas Podgorny are a brother and sister team who dedicate one day a week to cleaning the rodent cages at our shelter. They are a crucial part of our team, helping to ensure the health and happiness of our gerbils, hamsters, rats, mice and degus. Briana and Mas are always willing to help and have a positive attitude and commitment to the welfare of animals.

From all of the people and animals at the Best Little Rabbit, Rodent and Ferret House,
Thank You!

Help the animals, become a Volunteer!

We could not do our lifesaving work with out dedicated volunteers who donate their time and expertise. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please stop by our shelter, e-mail us at Info@RabbitRodentFerret.org, or call us (206) 365-9105. Thank You!

We currently need volunteers for:

Data Entry, *bookkeeping, incoming animals, etc.*

Shelter Cleaning, *help is always needed (we need someone who can clean and mop floors once a week)*

E-Bay, *manage an E-bay auction for us*

Window, Parking Lot Cleaning

Preparing Salads

Adoptable Animals, *take photos and update web page*

Rabbit Meadows Sanctuary, *cleaning every 2 months*

Fold/Staple Newsletters

Distribute brochures, *to veterinary clinics*

HEY RABBIT! EAT HAY!

Barbara Deeb, DVM

Why hay?

Your digestive tract is specialized for processing high fiber plants. Hay is dried fibrous plant material. You have intestinal flora which turn plant fiber into nutrients. Without fiber your gastrointestinal tract works too slowly and your flora change, making you prone to illness.

What hay?

If you are a growing rabbit, eat alfalfa or other legume hay, which has about 16% protein and 0.85% calcium and promotes growth and strong bones; but has less fiber than grass hay. Also eat a grass hay such as Timothy, orchard, oat or brome. Having grass hay available makes it easier to switch to all grass hay when you are mature.



Adopt Me!
Gayle is a white mini-rabbit who is currently looking for a loving home.

When is maturity?

When you are about 6-9 months old, switch from the alfalfa to a second grass hay. Grass hays have about 7% protein, at least 25% fiber and about 0.5% calcium. You don't need to grow any more. You need to maintain your perfect adult body shape. Different hays with different times of harvest have variations of micronutrients. Choice of hay is fun and insures good nutrition. Timothy is most available. Orchard has a very attractive smell. Oat has more stems and tasty oat heads. Brome has a special flavor preferred by some. Rye and wheat grass are other options. Eating two different types of grass hay adds variety and together will provide most of the nutrients you need.


But what about pellets and vegetables?

Well OK. Alfalfa or Timothy-based pellets and vegetables are good. But keep your gastrointestinal tract happy by eating hay every day. Of course never accept hay that is damp or moldy.

We thank the following businesses that support our organization!

Please support these businesses

(owned by rabbits, guinea pigs and ferrets)




Allpet Veterinary Clinic

Barbara Deeb, DVM, MS


1222 NE 145th
Shoreline, Washington 98155
(Between I-5 & 15th NE on Hwy 523)

365-1102





Sparkles and Dusty Deeb are ready to assist the veterinarian.



Thomas A. Lerner
Attorney At Law

Stokes Lawrence, P.S.

800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4000
Seattle, Washington 98104-3179

206 626-6000 reception
206 464-1496 facsimile
206 892-2147 direct

tom.lerner@stokeslaw.com



Stuart Lerner helping with important attorney stuff.

North Seattle Veterinary Clinic

10322 Lake City Way, N.E.
Seattle, WA 98125

Adriana Windom, DVM Melissa Nathanson, DVM

Monday-Friday 8-6
Saturdays 8-1

Phone:
(206) 523-7187

Wish List

Infant Oxygen Incubator

White Vinegar (*we use it by the gallons for cleaning*)

Bleach (*not Clorox, they test on rabbits*)

Paper Towels

USB Zip Drive

Laundry Soap (*bulk containers*)

Towels (*primarily bath towels, but other sizes as well*)

Black garbage bags (*33-36 gallon bags*)

White 13 gal garbage bags (*.9 ml*)

Adobe Software-Windows:

InDesign v.2.0

GoLive v.6.0

PageMaker v.7.0

Walk-in Refrigerator (*keep veggies fresh for shelter and sanctuary rabbits*)

Heavy Duty Stapler

Bulletin Board

Dish Sponges

Security Cameras

Baby Blankets

Rugs (*bathroom and throw rugs*)

Brooms and Mops

King Murray's Royal Tail

The True Story of an Easter Bunny

by **Kathy Smith**,
illustrated by
Karen Scott

Inspired by one of Kathy Smith's own rabbits, Murray's story will warm the hearts of animal lovers of all ages.



Available at the BLRRFH shelter or online at www.RabbitRodentFerret.org.

"Sponsor a Furry Animal"

Who says money can't buy happiness? It can when you Sponsor a Furry Friend. You can choose an individual animal in the shelter or a particular species. Your sponsorship will include a color photo of your sponsored animal, a photo frame magnet and a short biography. A sign, with your name, will also be hung on your sponsored animal's cage. Sponsoring a rabbit, rodent or ferret in our shelter will help us pay for the much needed supplies, medical care and food that is required to take care of them. The minimum sponsorship is \$40 a year. You can pay for your sponsorship with a 1 time donation or with a monthly automatic credit card donation. Please see mail in form on page 14. Thank you!

*Sally is just one of the many animals
you can sponsor at BLRRFH.*



Become a Member!

When you become a member of BLRRFH or HRS, you are helping to support our rescue efforts. You are helping to provide spay/neuter, vaccinations, surgery, lab costs, medication, food, shelter, toys, litter and everything else that is needed to ensure quality care of the animals at BLRRFH and at Rabbit Meadows Sanctuary. You are also helping the rabbits, rodents and ferrets find permanent loving homes.

Your membership will include:

Our quarterly newsletter, *Rabbit, Rodent & Ferret News*

Membership card

5% discount on merchandise when you visit our shelter

We rely entirely on donations and could not provide the high quality care for the animals in our shelter and at the sanctuary without the generosity of people like you. Please see back page for membership dues and mail in form.

Become a BLRRFH Constant Companion!

Become a constant companion to the animals with an automatic monthly credit card donation. Your monthly donation will provide a dependable source of income so we can continue to do our lifesaving work.

Thank you for your support!



Best Little Rabbit, Rodent & Ferret House

14317 Lake City Way NE
Seattle, WA 98125

NonProfit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Bellevue WA
Permit No. 225



Yes, I want to help the animals at the
Best Little Rabbit, Rodent & Ferret House!



☐ Yes, I would like to become a member of

☐ BLRRFH \$15 (1 year membership)

☐ National HRS \$18 (1 year membership)

☐ Both \$31 (a \$2 savings for a 1 year membership)

☐ I would like to give a BLRRFH membership to a friend/family member. Please enclose the name and address of the gift recipient separately.

☐ Yes, I would like to donate \$_____ to the Live Adoption Area Camera Fund

☐ I have enclosed my company's matching gift form.

☐ Yes, I would like to Sponsor a Furry Friend

(\$40 minimum for sponsorship) see page 13 for details

☐ Rabbit ☐ Ferret ☐ Guinea Pig

☐ Rodent (_____)

(If you are sponsoring an animal as a gift to a friend or family member, please enclose their name and address separately.)

☐ Please enroll me as a BLRRFH Constant Companion and charge my credit card \$_____ monthly.

(For more information on membership or BLRRFH Constant Companion program, see page 13)

I have enclosed my gift of \$_____ to help the animals.

☐ I have enclosed is my check payable to BLRRFH or HRS

Please charge my credit card ☐ M/C ☐ Visa

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip _____

E-mail _____

I would like to receive my newsletter ☐ on-line ☐ in the mail.

Please mail form to: **Best Little Rabbit, Rodent & Ferret House**
14317 Lake City Way NE
Seattle, WA 98125

Expires ____/____/____ Signature _____

Thank You!