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Ferret Questions Audio Script Sample

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1. I've been thinking about getting a ferret. What are the pros and cons of owning a ferret?

First of all, you must study the ferret breed in detail before deciding whether or not to purchase a ferret. There are many things to think about, including the hereditary diseases associated with the breed, whether you have young children in your home that may hurt the ferret, and if you are prepared for and have the time to take care of a ferret.

Some hereditary diseases that a ferret can suffer from are anal gland impaction (which is when a blockage or infection can cause these glands to produce a bulky substance that can be hard for the ferret to pass), aplastic anemia (a disease that mostly affects female ferrets and causes red blood cells to produce much more slowly than normal and can even cause death), cardiomyopathy (which is, in short, heart problems) and cataracts.

These diseases can be serious and require veterinarian treatment right away. If you are not financially able to provide emergency treatment for a ferret or do not live close to an emergency animal hospital, purchasing a ferret may not be a wise decision for you at this time. If you have done your research and feel that owning a ferret is the right choice for you, congratulations.

You have a very happy and fulfilling relationship between you and your ferret in store for you. Just like with owning any pet, the rewards that come with taking care of an animal and receiving love and loyalty back from them may outweigh the burdens that come with taking care of a pet. Ferrets are no exception.

2. I've decided to get a ferret. Where should I begin?

Many cities have numerous pet stores within them that sell already neutered, spayed and de-scented ferrets for a price. While this may





be more convenient in the way that you will be able to purchase a ferret right away from somewhere near your home, these ferrets are bred to sell. There are such things as adoption agencies (you can find some of them online) that will allow you to adopt a ferret that does not have a home for a much smaller fee.

These ferrets don't always come with their vaccinations and may not be neutered, spayed or de-scented, although some reputable adoption agencies will vaccinate, spay and neuter their ferrets before putting them on the adoption board.

If you choose to adopt a ferret, you will have the peace of mind that you gave a ferret a home that did not already have one, and you will often save yourself a little bit of money. However, there is nothing wrong with purchasing your ferret from a pet store and you can rest assured that your ferret has been taken care of and well socialized.

3. Are there any places where owning a ferret is illegal or a license is required?

Unfortunately, the laws concerning ferret ownership and breeding are murky and vary from state to state and city to city. It is important that you do some research about ferret ownership and breeding in your specific state and city. You can find out more about ferret legislation in your state by doing an Internet search or call your local Wildlife Department.

Why are ferrets illegal in some states and not others? Not long ago, ferrets were considered exotic animals. But as time went on and people discovered what wonderful pets ferrets can be, states complied with the demand and amended existing legislation.





However, not all states have amended ferret legislation and continue to enforce outdated laws about ferret ownership. The states of California and Hawaii ban ferrets entirely, as do the cities Washington D.C.; Dallas, Texas; Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Columbus, Ohio. While it is not illegal to own ferrets in South Carolina, it is illegal to sell them. New Jersey, Rhode Island and Illinois are all states that allow ferret ownership but require permits to do so.

As you can see, ferret ownership and breeding legislation differs greatly between areas. I cannot stress enough how important it is to look up your city and state's ferret legislation *before* you purchase or adopt your ferret.

4. How much, on average, does a ferret cost if I am purchasing the ferret from a pet store?

The cost of ferrets purchased from a pet store differs greatly from store to store, although you can expect to be paying anywhere from \$100-\$150 depending not only on the popularity and prestige of the store, but also on the breed of ferret.

Some colorations and markings that distinguish a breed will cause the ferret to cost more than others. Adopting a ferret from a shelter or home can cost a little less, around \$50-100. You will also need to be prepared to spend money on a large enough cage, ferret shavings and litter, toys and accessories and ferret food.

Ferrets can be expensive to purchase and expensive to take care of, but many ferret owners will say that the rewards of having a ferret as a pet are well worth it.





5. Can you describe, in detail, the different ferret breeds and their respective markings?

There are basically four groups of ferrets and although there are many, many differently colored ferrets, they each should be able to fit into one of these categories.

The Albino ferrets are self-explanatory – they are usually all white with red eyes, or can be mostly white with slight colorations on the tail or ears.

The Sable ferret is highly sought after because the bottom layer of their coats is a milky white while the top coat is a nutmeg-colored brown. Sable ferrets with white paws are known as “sable mitts.”

In addition, black sable ferrets fall into the “sable” category; however, their fur is so dark that they appear solid black, even in spite of a white or cream colored undercoat. These ferrets often carry the name “Bandit” due to the mask-like coloring on the fur surrounding their eyes. Silver ferrets can sometimes be confused with albino ferrets, but their coloring is much more distinctly gray or charcoal colored than pure white.

Although the colors are different with silver ferrets, the pattern of dark colored fur on light can be similar to the sable ferret. Also confused with albino ferrets is the rarer breed of ferret known as the “dark-eyed white.”

While albinism is a result of a complete lack of pigmentation, a dark-eyed white ferret has almost solidly white fur, however, due to his dark eyes, we know that his white fur is not due to a genetic anomaly.

There is a fifth category in which ferrets’ coloration can fall into, but many people argue that these ferrets just aren’t around anymore.





Cinnamon ferrets can have a strawberry-blond color to their fur, or a tinge of warm “cinnamon” color – thus giving him his name.

6. Should I have my ferret spayed or neutered? I have also heard of microchips being used for identification – can you tell me more about that?

Firstly, any reputable pet store or ferret adoption agency should have already had the ferrets spayed or neutered. It is important that if this has not been done already, that you make an appointment with your veterinarian of choice to have this done.

In males, neutering keeps him from marking his territory (much like un-neutered male cats), it reduces the “ferret smell” a fair amount and most importantly, nixes his urge to be destructive and violent. This is especially important if you have other ferrets in the home.

In a female, it is important to get her spayed because of the detriment that can follow if she is allowed to go into heat. If a jill goes into heat and is not either bred or given a hormone injection, she may very well die.

During a jill’s heat, her immune system is weakened a considerable amount. It is much easier for her to become ill during this time and even mild diseases can be considerably worse if she’s in heat.

Other unpleasant, if not dangerous ailments associated with a jill’s heat is an infection in the vaginal region caused by bacteria or anemia caused by too much blood flow to the groin area and not enough blood flow to the rest of her body. In addition to the medical reasons for which both male and female ferrets need to be spayed or neutered, there is also the issue of overpopulation of ferrets. At this time, shelters for ferrets are completely overwhelmed. It is much better for





the ferret population and your ferret's health to have him or her spayed or neutered.

7. I've heard that there are some common nuisances associated with baby and young adult ferrets. What are they and how can I control or stop them?

Of course, biting is one of the most common, and unfortunately the most annoying and undesirable ferret habit. First, I must point out that a ferret's mouth is used for more than just eating – it's their main way of communicating with other ferrets.

You will see ferret friends biting each other playfully, using its mouth to clean itself, or you might see a mother ferret cleaning or reprimanding her young using her mouth. So it is natural for a ferret to use its mouth on a human, whether it is a playful nip or an angry defense mechanism.

Nevertheless, biting ferrets just don't make good pets, especially in homes that have small children. However, the good news is that you *can* train a ferret not to bite – or rather, you might consider it training yourself not to do things that provoke the ferret to bite.

If you find yourself the owner of a biting ferret, assess the situation and handle it as quickly as possible, especially if the ferret is still young. Do not wait until the ferret "grows out of it" because I can assure you that if you do not train the ferret properly, it will not.

The bulk of the responsibility of teaching a ferret not to bite lies within his owner – remember, using its mouth comes naturally to the ferret. Pay attention to *when* your ferret bites – this is the key to learning *why* it bites. You cannot stop a ferret from biting, period. You must figure out when and why the ferret bites and do your best to avoid those situations.





For example, does your ferret bite you only after it has been alone in its cage for several hours? Or does the ferret bite you if you walk around the house wearing socks? If you learn to isolate when and during what activity your ferret bites the most, you can then take steps to avoid that particular activity.

If your ferret bites mostly when it has been caged for several hours, make a point to let the ferret out more often. If it bites your feet only when you wear socks, your ferret may just see the moving white things as toys and you'd be better off with a pair of slippers.

Listen to your ferret's cues – it is biting to communicate with you. If your ferret bites while being held, it may simply want down and may not favor affection as much as another ferret might.

Although it may seem silly to modify your behavior and lifestyles in such ways to accommodate a biting ferret, it really is the only way you're going to achieve success. Remember, ferrets have their own personalities too and will often retaliate at a human's angry and controlling hand.

Using any type of force to "teach" your ferret not to bite will not work – it will only teach the ferret to be either aggressive or afraid and neither will make a good pet.

----- END OF SAMPLE -----

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**How To Stop Your Ferret From Biting And Stinking...
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And Healthiest Pet In The World!**



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