

# Fun Ferrets!

By Comfort for Critters

Comfort for Critters gets the second part of its name from our love of all animals. While dogs and cats surely outnumber other pets in shelters, we do make it our mission to provide comfort to all creatures who find themselves homeless. One critter you might not think about when you hear "animal shelter" is the ferret.

Ferrets may strike you as exotic, wild animals, but they have actually been domesticated for at least 2,500 years. Part of the weasel family, they have been popular in the US as pets since the mid-1980's.

A big part of their charm is their extreme playfulness. Ferrets are very social animals, preferring to live in groups. They sleep a lot (14 -18 hours/day) but are quite active during dawn and dusk. When a ferret gets excited it often performs the "weasel war dance" - which consists of a wild series of sideways hops.

Besides their hilarious antics, ferrets are intelligent and affectionate. Each ferret has a distinct personality and some are very good problem solvers. Ferrets can be easily trained to use a litterbox and can also learn to come when they're called. Over time, they can even learn simple "tricks" like rolling over, and standing up for a treat.

Maybe the cutest characteristic (if not the most frustrating!) is summed up by the Latin meaning of the word "ferret", which is "little thief." Simply put - ferrets like to hide things. If you leave something interesting (car keys, socks) where a ferret can reach them, they might just disappear...only to be found later in the ferret's favorite hiding spot! They so love stuffing things into their self-made cubby-holes... I was sure they'd adore snuggling in homemade blankets! To learn more about these fascinating creatures, check out [www.everythingferret.com](http://www.everythingferret.com) or [www.weaselwords.com](http://www.weaselwords.com). Enjoy!

[www.ComfortForCritters.org](http://www.ComfortForCritters.org)