



Please do not unsubscribe from this newsletter!

This is the only way we can communicate with all shelters listed on the Ferret Shelters Directory and any additional subscribers. If you are no longer sheltering or wish to remove your listing from the Directory, please contact us at Help@FerretShelters.Org. You should receive a reply within 24-48 hours. If you have not, please email again. Emails can go astray. Thank you!

Shelter Operations Conference (Forum) Survey

We're all working to help ferrets. But are there ways we could work together better. Can we hone our skills, share information better, set goals to help find ways to deal with the numbers of ferrets we have to deal with?

Shelters do the MOST for ferrets. Not pet stores, not breeders, not show organizations. Shelters put personal finances, relationships, time, energy, and sanity on the line to save animals. Waiting for someone else to come forward and try to reduce the flow of abandoned pet ferrets hasn't worked. If change is to happen, it has to come from us.

What can we do? Where do we start? The Ferret Shelters Directory was the first step; compiling and listing ferret shelters across the country. The second step is to start to work together. E-mail and Facebook are great, but there's nothing like sitting down face to face with your peers to meet, discuss concerns, share information,

we face. .

FACT is willing to try to raise the funds to plan and coordinate an initial meeting which we are calling a Forum. In order to do that, we need an idea of who would be interested in attending, how far you can travel, what you could afford to contribute, and how much time you can allocate. While it would be wonderful to have perspectives from across the country, travel costs will probably mean we have to start one region at a time.

We would appreciate a response in the next week which will help us seek initial funding sources.. Thank you for your valuable time!

[Survey Link](#)

If you have trouble with the link you can copy/paste this:

<https://ferretsheltersdirectory.justsurvey.me/53686c5e6579>

Vaccination Survey

Sorry to hit you with 2 surveys at once - but a request was made to query shelters about what they are doing (in the US) about the lack of an approved CD vaccine at the moment. We have expanded this to include our international shelters as well as a question on micro-chipping. Promise, both these are much shorter than our first survey.

[Suvery Link](#)

If you have trouble with the link you can copy/paste this:

<https://ferretsheltersdirectory.justsurvey.me/46656c5f6579>

Shelter Statistics Wanted

Over the past 2 years, FACT has been gathering data on where the ferrets we take into our shelter were sold. About ½ the time, we can't determine a definite point of sale, other than that the ferret was sold in a pet store (we take in few breeder ferrets). Animals may have been found outside, abandoned at animal control, passed from one person to another, or the owner just doesn't remember where they were purchased. For those animals whose point of sale is identifiable, though, it wasn't a surprise to us that 94% came from one pet store chain. But a gut feeling or suspicions aren't facts. Numbers are facts, and they can be used to confront stores,

We are asking every shelter reading this to begin to track ferret origins, also. It's as simple as putting an additional question on your ferret intake form: Where was this ferret purchased?

Like us, you may not be able to find out the exact seller, but based on physical signs – Marshall Farms tattoo marks, unaltered or undescended, etc. – you're sure to be able to tell if the ferret was sold in a pet store or came from a private breeder. So you would either mark the answer as X pet store, unknown pet store, A breeder, or unknown private breeder.

Periodically, add up those sale points from your intake records. It's a great job for a volunteer. (You DO keep intake forms for each ferret, right? If not, let us know asap and we'll be happy to ask several shelters to send you samples.)

So you might see numbers like this:

100 total ferrets accepted from 10/1/14-12/31/14

60 identified pet store (45 from X pet store, 5 from Y pet store, 10 from Z pet store)

5 identified breeder (3 from A breeder, 2 from B breeder)

30 unknown pet store

5 unknown breeder

What's the point? This information is ammunition. If you walk into a pet store and say, "The ferrets you sell here end up in my shelter," the store can just ignore you because you're just some ferret nut. When you walk into a store and say, "85% of the ferrets I took into my shelter came from your store," the store manager may still think you're a ferret nut, but you're a ferret nut with verifiable data to back up your claim, and that's not so easy to brush off. These numbers become incredibly important if the ferret shelter community ever wants to confront the pet industry about ferret sales.

None of us want more unwanted ferrets. Tracking these statistics nationwide is truly vital. PLEASE help! In order to maintain relative comparisons, we're asking participating shelters commit to sending us their stats on a quarterly basis. It would be great to start October 1 and get numbers for the last 2 months of 2014. The rabbit shelters were able to stop sales in a major retailer by cooperating to show them how bad the bunny overpopulation problem was; working together, WE can, too.

Please send the information to: Help@FerretShelters.Org

Facebook Discussion - Need for Stats

Somewhat related to the topic of Shelter Statistics is a discussion that took place on Facebook in one of the groups. It was precipitated by the large Petco sale that's been going on across the country with 50% off ferrets.

With everyone's permission, I have posted that discussion under the Ferret Portal in two pdf's. We are sharing this so others have the benefit of the information shared there.

The documents are password protected! To open each of them use the following (case sensitive) password to open them.

FBferret2014

Directory Upgrades

Spam eMail

We continue to upgrade the Directory in order to reduce unwanted spam emails. As I get a copy of every email sent to each shelter, please know I "feel your pain!" We now exclude entire countries like Russia and China that were the primary contributors to the "Buy Ralph Lauren t-shirts" emails. However, we will never be able to stop them all as we cannot block US based mail and some comes from here. However, it should be minimal.

Newsletter

We are going to use MailChimp to manage our newsletter. While it will be more effort for us admins, we can now add other people in your organization to the newsletter email list. Just contact us and let us know who to add.

Also, please let us know ***if you want to write something*** for this newsletter; develop a survey; or communicate information to other shelters. This is a unique opportunity to connect with all 100+ shelters in the US, UK and Australia. Remember, besides shelters we also include multi-species shelters and animal control officers on these mailings.

Surveys

Surveys and results will be posted under the Shelter Portal tab on the website.

Shelter listings have been renewing. We chose to use a 6 month schedule because we wanted people to review their listing to make any changes needed. What we learned is that many folks forgot their log-in IDs.

Presently we have no way to recover your ID other than asking via the Help@FerretShelters.Org email address for either Dianna Desrochers or I looking it up for you and emailing you back which will cause a delay.

Beginning with this e-newsletter, we will address Shelter Directory participants in the email using the First Name for all to say UserName: and the Last Name to be your actual Directory user name. So for example if your user name is JackPooperScooper the email will be addressed as "UserName: JackPooperScooper" - we hope this helps you.

Passwords still have to be reset, if you forgot it, from the log-on screen. Just remember to go into your "account" when you do get in and change it to something you can remember.

Thank you.

Ann Gruden

Ferret Association of Connecticut, Inc.

Ferret Shelters Directory Administration

HelpFerretShelters.Org