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ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF IOWA, INC.

Enjoying Your Ferret

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Most ferrets enjoy a bath and playing in water. Fill your sink or bathtub partway with lukewarm water and let your pet enjoy. You may use either ferret or cat shampoo.

Ferrets like to play games; two of their favorites are tug of war and hide and seek. They also love to swipe and hide things, so keep your wallet, keys, etc. in a location that is inaccessible. They enjoy almost any cat or dog toy, especially round toys such as balls.

Ferrets can be taught to sit, turn around, roll over or stay on your shoulders. Unlike dogs, ferrets generally won't do tricks for the sheer joy of it, they need a reward. Cat treats work well as rewards. A good trick to teach your ferret is to make a particular noise (for instance whistle loud) then give them a treat. Your ferret will soon respond quickly to this noise knowing he will receive a treat.

Because ferrets like to hide and explore tiny places, you may want to "ferret proof" areas that you don't want them in.

Ferrets enjoy going places and going for walks as much as dogs do. You can fix a shoulder bag to carry them around or you may want a special harness and a leash for this purpose. A collar with a bell attached works well in locating your ferret when they get outside or even inside. It will give you enormous peace of mind to be able to tell where your pet is. Ferrets, like other pets, should never be allowed to roam freely out of doors.

Remember: Ferrets are not cats or kittens and may not be the right pet for you. It is important to make the right decision before adopting.

