From:	Matthew Schickele
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	comment: I welcome ferrets - Health Code §§161.01(b)(4)
Date:	Tuesday, December 16, 2014 2:18:46 PM

Greetings,

This is a comment on the proposed amendment, Health Code §§161.01(b)(4).

Let's legalize ferrets!

While I don't want one myself, I have read about how there is now a vaccine for them, and how the evidence shows they do not pose significant danger.

I would welcome them to our city.

Thank you,
--
Matthew Schickele
1746 Menahan St.
Ridgewood, NY 11385

From:	Natalie Fontane
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	ferret legalization in NYC
Date:	Wednesday, December 17, 2014 2:41:09 PM

I'd like to take this opportunity to recommend New York City lift the ban on ferret ownership. Ferrets are wonderful, loving, domestic pets that pose no more of a threat to people than a young kitten or puppy does. Unlike reptiles which can spread salmonella to handlers whose immune systems are compromised, ferrets harbor no such diseases. They are easily vaccinated against rabies, and when properly cared for, they pose no danger to people or other animals (aside from small rodents which might be seen as prey, but cats are just as guilty of harming rodents as a ferret is).

I'd also like to express the ferret owner community's desire that you maintain purchasing ferrets in the city be illegal as these animals are not quite as easy to understand as a dog or cat, and many end up in shelters when their owners realize their care is quite different from what they were expecting. Ferrets should be legal to own as long as rabies vaccinations on the animal are current and its owner follows leash laws as is expected of dog and cat owners.

Natalie Fontane

From:	Adam Rosenblatt
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	ferret legalization
Date:	Wednesday, December 17, 2014 3:21:06 PM

Good afternoon

Please legalize ferrets in NYC.

Thank you,

From:	Dianne Rohowicz
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Legalising Ferrets in New York City ....
Date:	Wednesday, December 17, 2014 9:08:09 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

Although I am not a resident of New York City, I would like to add my voice to the case for legalising ferrets based on the fact that they would pose no health risk in any way.

Ferrets are extremely clean animals and "wash" themselves in the same as a cat does.

Provided the ferret, male or female, is sterilised and the owner keeps their bedding clean you will also find they smell no more than a cat or dog and, unlike rodents, ferrets are a domestic pet, not a wild animal, and as such do not survive for long outside a household environment.

Also, should a ferret manage to "escape" from home (they are extremely curious critters & always want to know what else is on the other side of the door), they are extremely unlikely, even if they were not sterilised, to find another ferret out their with which to go forth & multiply.

Ferrets make wonderful, loveable, interactive pets which make no noise to disturb the neighbours, and, because they sleep 18 out of 24 hours during the day, most people would not even know you had a ferret/ferrets as a pet which makes them a superb & practical choice of pet for people living small apartments or boarding rooms where having a cat or dog is many times impractical.

A ferret is not a pet one should buy on impulse and you will find that most ferret owners have done a lot of research and "hands on" with other people's ferrets before deciding this is the pet for them so, whilst we would implore you to not make ferret ownership illegal in your State, we would also like to see that they are not readily available for purchase through Pet Stores as, we have found the majority of Pet Stores selling animals do not take much care at all as to who they sell their animals to and ferrets, just like cats & dogs, should not be just sold to anyone.

I hope you will give consideration to my submission and add my voice to others "fighting" for this cause and am happy to answer any questions you may feel need to put my way.

Many thanks for :listening"

Dianne Rohowicz
Ferret, Cat & Dog Owner
Greenwood
Western Australia.

From: Mandi
To: Resolution Comments
Subject: The ferret ban
Date: Wednesday, December 17, 2014 3:23:18 PM

I've heard you are taking comments about the ban on ferrets in New York City. I just wanted to tell you about my experience with ferrets. My name is Mandi and I am 17. I live in Massachusetts and I have 6 ferrets. Ferrets are great pets and are not a risk to health in any way. My ferrets have saved my life. I used to be very suicidal a few years ago, but then I got my first ferret, Delilah. Delilah was a sweet old ferret. She would give me kisses when I cried and cuddled with me. Unfortunately, a year after I got her, she went into heart failure because she had a disease called cardiomyopathy(which, of course, is not contagious). After she passed, I got two more ferrets, Penelope and Franklin. Franklin unfortunately passed in June of this year from insulinoma, adrenal disease and lymphoma(cancers). I used to use him as an education ferret. I'd bring him to events to teach people about ferrets, so they would know that ferrets are great pets, but they'd also know how to properly care for them. I now have four ferrets that were strays that my local petco has given to me. Some of them were biters, but they warmed up to me and are now very loving. My ferrets all get rabies and canine distemper vaccines. Ferrets are not very susceptible to the rabies virus though. Rabies has been seen in cats and dogs much more often than ferrets, yet dogs and cats aren't banned anywhere (You can read more about rabies in ferrets here: http://www-personal.ksu.edu/~sprite/RABIES.HTML). Distemper has been seen in ferrets, but it comes from dogs and cannot be transmitted to humans. Ferrets can also get the influenza virus from people and can transmit it to people, but that's seen less often. The best way to prevent these things is to require canine distemper and rabies vaccines in ferrets(except for the ferrets who have allergic reactions to it). Please, please rethink your ban on ferrets. Ferrets are amazing pets who can help people in many ways. Some people in your city already have ferrets and being able to find vet care easily would make their ferrets lives a lot better. Thank you for reconsidering the ban and reading this.

Sincerely,
Mandi Tarbox

From:	Tracy McAlpine
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Ferret Legalization in NYC
Date:	Wednesday, December 17, 2014 8:38:26 PM

I would like to see ferrets legalized in NYC and enable residents there to add ferrets to their family.

Thank you for your consideration,
Tracy McAlpine
Riverview, FL

From:	Leah Anderson
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Ferrets need loving homes too.
Date:	Thursday, December 18, 2014 7:54:17 AM

They should be allowed in NYC. They are wonderful, loving creatures…same as cats and dogs. Please allow.

Leah Anderson
Receptionist/Hospitality Coordinator | New York | x28715
SheppardMullin

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From:	joaug7
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Legalizing ferrets in NYC
Date:	Tuesday, December 30, 2014 9:34:03 PM

I am for legalizing ferrets in NYC, but keep it illegal to sell them in pet stores so people can adopt from shelters.

Sent on a Sprint Samsung Galaxy S® III

Lisa Garruzzo

Comment:

I am supporting the action to amend the above mentioned articles to legalize ferrets in New York City. They pose no more a risk to humans than other domesticated animals that are kept as pets, such as dogs and cats, when properly cared for.

Maria Lopez

Comment:

Ferrets are NOT dangerous and don't bite. They are very loving and playful pets. I really don't understand why they have such a bad stigma.

Nancy Chinchar

Comment:

Grooming businesses should not be required to obtain proof of active vaccinations. Grooming establishments, particularly in NYC, that do not include boarding facilities are almost exclusively small businesses. (The only exceptions are two giant franchised corporations.) Gathering these records puts an undue burden on these businesses, which usually have fewer than 10 employees, by: costing the establishment taxable revenue by forcing them to turn away clients who may have medical or other reasons to reject updated vaccinations (many veterinarians do not recommend older pets continue to be vaccinated, for example) forcing them to increase payroll an estimated $8,000 per year (this figure does not include additional payroll tax) or else abandon other areas of business.

This happens despite the fact that grooming shops that do not offer boarding are typically different from those that do. Independent grooming shops: crate animals separately at all times, so there is less exposure between dogs in a grooming shop than between dogs walked on the street do not expose pets to the causes of illness that the vaccinations purport to prevent (such as an open wound causing fight or the feces of another dog) The law as it is written is inconsistent and ambiguous and possibly harmful to pets. The American Animal Hospital Association has recently updated their recommended vaccination protocols to prevent over-vaccinating pets but veterinarians are not required to follow these protocols. Some practices require that their clients be vaccinated more often than others to be “up-to-date” on their vaccinations. Clients from such a practice would appear to be out of compliance, while others who see doctors who adhere to recommended protocols would be in compliance, though they both may have been exposed to the same amount of vaccination. Many veterinarians recommend that older pets (14+ years old) stop being vaccinated. Many of these pets still require grooming for optimal health. Pets that are turned away from a grooming shop face health issues caused by untreated or severely matted coats, such as untreated hot spots, hematomas and skin rashes Other pet-related businesses and even city-funded dog parks, which generate far more exposure between pets, do not face this regulation Lastly, if the concern is spreading disease to humans, the law is over-reaching. According to the CDC, there have been 2 cases of animal to human rabies in NY in the past three years and in both of those cases, the person involved was exposed to the animal in other countries (Afghanistan and Ghana).

Dr. Remona Rhooms

Comment:
I am a licensed veterinarian in NYC. I support the amendment to legalize ferrets. It might also be necessary to add a vaccination for distemper once an appropriate vaccine becomes available again. As already stated, ferrets do not cause more of health risk than the domestic dog or cat. They do have the ability to bite, as do all other pets we keep in our homes. It is up to the owner to properly train and restrain their pets when necessary. Many ferret owners are scared to bring their pet to their vet in fear that they might be taken away or put down. I had a good samaritan bring in a male ferret who was found in carrier, just left in the park. This might have been prevented if resources could have been made available, such as temp boarding or inner city adoptions. Their small size makes them the perfect apart pet. Although they do produce a mild odor, there are many ways to overcome this and they are silent which will not disturb neighbors. How many neighbors complain about dogs barking, or even the occasional meowing. They also do not pose a threat to the local habitat as they believe in California. Ferrets are not equipped to live in the wild for long periods. The threat is also lessened by the fact that most ferrets have been neutered and have short lifespans, so the risk of a wild population is nonexistent. Please pass this amendment to improve the lives of the ferrets already living in our city and increasing the pool of possible adopters of already abandoned ferrets. I know that banning the sale of rabbits will be considered and I would also recommend the same for ferrets. Because they are so small and caged, I fear too many will buy them without properly knowing how to care for them.

Agency: DOHMH

Andy schulman

Comment:
As the owner of a grooming shop, I agree with Nancy's comments completely as they are spot on. The dogs have no direct contact with one another in the grooming area and therefore there is no risk of diseases being spread. The amount of time spent chasing down medical records is a time con suing burden on both the business and the customer. Periodically we have to turn away customers, which is unfair for all involved (the small business owner, the groomers who depend on these animals to make a living and the dogs who are refused service). I obtained 100 signatures from my clients who were all supportive of having this rule amended and agreed that their dogs were not in any danger of contracting any illnesses while getting groomed. I submitted these signatures to the department of health and several other city officials and have not gotten any reply.
Agency: DOHMH

L. Vanessa Gruden

Comment:
As Executive Director of the Ferret Association of Connecticut, a nonprofit educational/humane organization focused on the welfare of domestic ferrets, I wish to endorse rescinding their ban. Ferrets are smart, friendly, interactive animals, quiet, not destructive, and with a wonderful joie de vie. Ferrets should be altered to avoid breeders and because their reproductive hormones cause a strong seasonal odor. Ferrets do NOT need to be descented; once males are neutered, strong odors disappear. While undescented ferrets can “spray” when frightened or injured, it lasts minutes. Ferrets cannot cause significant injury to older children or adults. Ferrets weigh between 1-3 pounds. Similar to how many humane organizations discourage families with very young children adopt kittens, we also discourage ferrets in homes with children under 5 – more from fear of injury to the animal. There are no feral ferrets anywhere in the 47 states – including the remainder of New York State – where they are legal. Ferrets are SO domestic that they rarely survive outdoors for over a week. We HIGHLY recommend requiring ferrets be vaccinated for rabies before they are sold/adopted to protect public health. There are no studies on the period antibodies transferred from maternal milk remain effective. In puppies and kittens, maternal vaccine efficacy decreases within weeks. CDC guidelines state that ferrets cannot receive a rabies vaccination until they are 12 weeks old. A health issue affecting both ferrets and dogs is canine distemper. Full protection requires a ferret receive a 3 vaccination series, beginning at 8 weeks old. Older ferrets with an unknown vaccination history should receive a series of 2 shots. We also recommend ferrets receive the appropriate series before placement. I have personally accepted 1,700 ferrets in the Ferret Association shelter. When asked about vaccination status, 99% of owners respond: “The pet store told me it had all its shots.” People are not informed of the need for further annual vaccinations. This is not the only misinformation perpetrated by pet stores. Our STRONG recommendation would be to only allow adoption via a nonprofit organization. The pet industry wants to see ferrets sold indiscriminately. Corporations will profit and give back little to shelters or animal control forced to face the fallout. Should the industry wish to provide ferrets, perhaps they’d consider allowing the adoption of ferrets culled from breeding operations. Having cared for poorly handled, rescued breeding ferrets, I can attest that once altered, they invariably become delightful pets, truly deserving of a loving home. In conclusion, the City has a wonderful opportunity to learn from the mistakes of other municipalities and create smart, humane rules that protect the public and benefit these charming little companion pets. Allowing ferrets back into the City is the first step: Please take it.
Agency: DOHMH

Daniel Young

Comment:
I fully support the proposed amendment to allow ferrets as pets throughout the city. I grew up in Suffolk county, where my family had several ferrets throughout my childhood. Their small size and friendly temperament make them ideal pets. They pose no more threat to humans than dogs or cats. They sadly can not survive long in the wild. Even if they could, I'd feel infinitely safer being confronted by a stray ferret in some dark city alley than a loose dog. I have always found it bizarrely arbitrary to sell ferrets throughout the suburbs of Long Island, while completely banning their presence just a few miles to the west. Thank you for giving this matter the serious consideration it deserves.
Agency: DOHMH

julie palmieri

Comment:
I have had the pleasure of having several ferrets over the last 9 years.I strongly believe they should not be sold in pet stores for they sell them to anybody and most of those people are not educated on ferret care. These are the best little animals being loving, fun and inspirational. I believe it would be in no way harmful for the city of New York
Agency: DOHMH

amanda vinci

Comment:
I care deeply about ferret welfare, especially in a large city such as New York. I am the owner of one ferret for the past 3 and a half years. He's been a wonderful addition to my life and my family. I suffer with various chronic pain conditions, and truly believe that my ferret has helped me to cope with my suffering. Ferrets are intelligent, complex and attentive little creatures. They are commonly misunderstood, and taken on by owners who don't know how to care for them properly. This is why I would like to see the continued restriction of the sale of ferrets in pet shops within the city. Impulse buys could lead to the abandonment or mistreatment of ferrets, causing shelters to become burdened with the intake of new ferrets. I would absolutely love for ferrets to be legal to own within the 5 boroughs, I would love to be able to share my love of Sneaky Weasel with others without feeling at risk of loosing him. I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies. Thank you for allowing this to be brought to the attention of the state.
Agency: DOHMH

Cathryn Meurn

Comment:
I was born and raised in New York - I'm now a NY transplant in the city of Washington DC, working for a California company - which in funny since NYC, DC, and CA are the only three that don't allow ferrets. With ties to all three this remains an issue that I am concerned with. I own a ferret, who I've had for the past three years. I didn't originally want him, it was a remainder of a past relationship - but my word how he has changed my life for the better. I love pets, and this one is one of the easiest, cleanest and best I've ever had. He's litter boxed trained, never bites, and sleeps about 20 hours a day. Living in and near a city, these animals are by far the best pet for a small apartment. Additionally, the ferret community has become an extended family - they all provide support and advice, and it's obvious that research on ferrets have come a long way. The information that DC, NYC, and CA are operating off of is old, out-dated and just plain wrong. I contemplated moving back to NYC when I graduated from my master's program, but the thought of choosing between a life in the city I love, and a pet that I adore - the choice became clear. I hope this gets repealed because it is my wish to see DC and CA follow suit.
Agency: DOHMH

Jane L. Schweitzer

Comment:
I have been a ferret owner for over 32 years and feel that it is time for the City to accept these creatures. NYC is a perfect place for ferrets to live because they are a perfect apartment pet. They require a cage, litter box and owners to play with at any time. In addition they are not able to survive in our cold Northeastern climate. So this ferret owner from Ohio, recommends adopting legalization of ferrets in NYC.
Agency: DOHMH

gwen kaiser

Comment:
yes please make ferrets a legal pet in nyc. they happen to make an ideal city dwelling pet with their natural sleep habits...they are friendly, and personable... like a cross between dogs and rats if i were to make a comparison.... i would only add one addendum to this law passing and that is to ban the sale of them in nyc--especially in pet shops. once the pet shops catch wind of ferrets being legal they will start selling them. and they--along with so many pets--will end up being surrendered to the ac&c. and we don't need ferrets taking up valuable cage space. there are plenty of ferrets available for adoption and no need to purchase them from a pet store. so please understand that this law is written very well except it needs to make the sale of ferrets in nyc illegal. adopting is fine--shopping is not. the last thing nyc needs is a ferret overpopulation problem and even with the mandatory sterilizing of all ferrets-- when pet shops are involved that will be difficult to enforce. great law---just make that addition and it's good to go! vive la ferret nyc!!
Agency: DOHMH

Kandi Kopel

Comment:
Ferrets are wonderful animals and pose no greater threat to human health and wellness than cats and dogs. I support amending the law to allow people to keep ferrets as pets.
Agency: DOHMH

Sarah Vesser

Comment:
Please reconsider your ban on ferrets in New York City. Ferrets are loving, sweet-tempered animals with a curious disposition and they make wonderful pets. They are no more dangerous than any dog, cat, or bird, as long as they have been trained appropriately and loved unconditionally. As with any creature, care must be taken at all times, but I have never had a ferret who was anything other than fun to be around! They are quiet, making them an excellent pet for apartment dwellers, and can be walked in harness as easily as dogs and cats. A ban on ferrets simply makes it more difficult for those who love these precious little animals and on the animal's health.
Agency: DOHMH

D Dix

Comment:
I have had ferrets for over 15 years and for anyone to say that they are wild animals has never owned or been near a ferret. Ferrets are loveable animals who want nothing more than to play with their owners and sleep and be loved. They are the ideal pet for me and I don't know what it would be like to not have one in my life or my home. People should get to know ferrets before making any judgment on their temperament or how they live. A little knowledge can go a long way to knowing an animal as special as a ferret.
Agency: DOHMH

s jones

Comment:
Our family has adopted more than three dozen ferrets from our local shelter over these many years, each little one a precious addition to our lives. Ferrets are soft and cuddly and affectionate and just awesome, playful little love bugs. Each is different, all are wonderful. Gentle little souls, they play and snuggle and dance for joy creating smiles and laughter all their days. Very intelligent and responsive, they give so much love to us. It's vital to work closely with an exotic animal vet and educate yourself. Ferrets should be legal to acquire but not sold at pet stores.
Agency: DOHMH

2015 JAN -7 AM 10: 14

January 5, 2015

Mary Travis Bassett, MD, MPH
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
~~Long Island City, NY 11101-4132~~

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules

Dear Commissioner Bassett:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I don't currently own ferrets but I have in the past and i care about their welfare. When they are handled kindly they are even less likely to bite than a cat or a dog. Ferrets are not a risk to the public.

Pet stores do not educate customers when they sell ferrets, so I do not think they should be sold in stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.
J.S.

I had ferrets for 25 years. They were my babies. They were very loving + playful. Never hurt anyone. I would still have ferrets if I could but because of my health + age I can't. I miss them very much. They were the joy of my life. I know many people who have them + they have no problems with them. Its the way you treat them. They are very lovable + give lots of love back. I still support the ferret club I belong to for the past 15 years or more because I miss having them so much.

Thank you

DO
I
2015 JAN -7 AM 10: 14

January 5, 2015

Mary Travis Bassett, MD, MPH
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11)
Proposed Rules

Dear Commissioner Bassett:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I have owned pet ferrets for many years and they are great pets. They have special needs that pet stores do not teach customers about, so I do not think they should be sold in pet stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter.

Thank you.

Evelyn O'Keefe
55 N. Broadway
3-16
White Plains
NY
10601

1(347)396-6087

GOHMH/OGC RECEIVED RECORDS
2015 JAN -7 AM 10: 14

January 10, 2015
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Mary Travis Bassett, MD, MPH
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules

Dear Commissioner Bassett and fellow Commissioners:

I am writing to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

Domestic ferrets are friendly, quiet, non-destructive pets well suited to city living. There are no feral populations of domestic ferrets in any of the 47 states where they are allowed, including that part of New York State outside the five boroughs. Any animal injured or frightened may bite, however a gently handled, properly trained, well-cared for ferret does not. Due to their small size, the chance of a ferret causing significant harm to a human is minute.

Ferrets require a similar level of care as a dog or cat and since they are different than either, should have an educated owner. Therefore, I urge the City to not allow sales of ferrets in commercial pet stores. The resulting "fad" or impulse purchases will only further burden the City and local animal shelters. Instead, I recommend the humane alternative of only allowing ferrets to be adopted through nonprofit organizations.

Please allow those who love these happy little comedians of the animal world to bring laughter and joy to the people of New York City. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly Lynch

KELLY DISCHER
308 A REDA LANE
BILLINGS, MT 59105

Hello! I hope that you indeed change the ruling on ferrets in New York City!! I can say with great certainty that the worst a ferret can do is steal your heart and hide it away with its favorite toys! I know that there is a misconception of ferrets as "rodents" and "wild animals," but a ferret is more closely related to a cat than a rat, and as to the "wild animal" part, they are only "wild" insomuch as they are VERY playful!! But, in general, a ferret cannot survive in the wild. I know that by changing the status of ferrets in NYC to "legal", it would go a long way toward changing peoples' perceptions about these gentle, loving, crazy, funny animals. Lets help ferrets become part of New York City's wonderful flavor!! THANK YOU for your time and consideration in this matter! —Kelly Discher

From:	Valerie Darling
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets
Date:	Monday, January 05, 2015 7:36:42 PM

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs. I have owned ferrets and have loved them very much. As did my children and grandchildren.

Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well. As someone involved in animal rescue (The Chi Society is a dog rescue - chi being short for chihuahua) I know that when a person buys an animal without knowing the specific needs of the animal, there is a sad possibility of the animal ending up in a shelter, or worse. A large breed dog may be little and cute at 8 weeks, but may be all wrong for someone who lives in an apartment. A ferret in a pet store may be cute and entertaining, but maybe all wrong for someone who buys based on "cute" and not on education.

Thank you.

Signature: Valerie J. Darling

Address (optional):
44 Woodside Road, Guilford, CT 06437

Val Darling
Vice President
The Chi Society of CT
Dog Rescue and Adoptions

www.TheChiSociety.org

"If you have men who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow men." ~ St. Francis of Assisi

From:	Sheila Meal linger
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Article 161 - Animals - Please Allow Ferrets
Date:	Tuesday, January 06, 2015 12:02:41 AM

In 1981 I brought my first ferret home and was hooked! She was the best pet I ever had and became a part of the family having full run of our whole house. When my little angel "Odie" left me due to illness I was devastated. A few weeks later I brought 3 new furry kids home and I re-did my whole downstairs to be just for the ferrets, totally ferret proofed and safe for the little girls. Through the years I adopted my furry kids from our local humane society. At this time I have no ferrets but I miss having them in my life. I only choose not to have a ferret at this time because I get so attached to them and they have such a short life span and are very expensive to own because they require a regular vet checkup and of the 12 ferrets I Had thru the years most became sick with cancer or other serious medical issue. I did everything in my power and bank account to keep them here with me but you need to let go at some point. The reason for my letter is to urge you to allow ferrets in the city, I would hope other people as passionate as I am for these adorable, fun animals can own them without the fear of someone taking them. They are not just a throw away item the people that own them love them!!! They are part of ones family and when they do leave they take a part of our hearts with them. You need to allow them, they are no threat to anyone or anything. If they got outside they would NOT survive! Thank you and again PLEASE reconsider your decision!

Sheila Blair Mellinger
Ephrata, PA

Sent from my iPad

From: Larry Anderson
To: Resolution Comments
Cc: patty@scalesandtails.org; dave@scalesandtails.org
Subject: Ferret Legalization in NYC
Date: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 1:00:19 AM

It has come to my attention that the rule banning ferret ownership in New York City is under review, with the possibility of removing ferrets from that ban. I have operated a ferret rescue / shelter in Northern New Jersey for about 10 years. We typically adopt out between 35 and 45 ferrets per year. We are a no kill shelter and usually have 20 to 30 ferrets that are living out their lives with us, as they are unlikely to be adopted. This is due to advancing age, or medical issues.

I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with my point of view on ferrets.

Ferrets are a wonderful pet. They are smart, fun and very loving. I typically describe them as "kittens that never grow up". Ferrets are not vicious. When ferrets are young, they often bite, because that is the way they play with their siblings. However, with a little effort, ferrets soon learn that human skin is not as tough as ferret skin, and the biting stops. As a rescue, we have had several adult biters surrendered to us. Even these were not mean or vicious – they appeared to have been mistreated. They exhibited strong fear reflexes, and did not want to be handled. In every single case, working with them, and showing them love turned them around completely, and made them into loving pets, that could be handled easily.

The notion of a "typical" ferret attacking a person, or a child is completely preposterous. However, an animal that has been mistreated or starved is not typical. That holds true for any animal, from the smallest dog or cat, to ferrets or to giant Great Danes.

Ferrets are not good pets for small children – they are fairly fragile, and will not stand up to rough handling.

All "commercial" ferrets have been neutered. This rule should certainly continue. Simply look at the colonies of feral cats, that once were pets, were never neutered, and were simply abandoned. Obviously, neutered animals cannot create any feral colonies, lacking the ability to reproduce. A fair percentage of our surrenders have been found by caring individuals after they have been dumped by their owners. We have received several that were found in the state parks, and none of them appeared to have long to live. There are too many predators for them to survive, and they have been domesticated far too long to have sufficient survival instincts to be able to exist in the wild for very long. We typically hear that ferrets have spotted humans, and come to them to escape their almost certain death in the wild.

Ferrets are different from most of the small, fuzzy animals, in that they truly love people. Most of the small fuzzies will run off and hide, if they escape their cage. In contrast, ferrets will make their escape, find somewhere dark and quiet to take a nap, then seek out people to interact and play.

As a ferret lover, I would be thrilled to see the ban on ferret ownership lifted, so that more people could experience these wonderful pets. However, as a shelter operator, I am concerned that there

may a sudden rush to buy ferrets when the ban is lifted. After a couple of years, many people simply grow tired of their pets, and dispose of them, much like an old pair of shoes. We see this behavior time and time again. Many pet stores provide absolutely no education whatsoever to people considering ferrets. Ferrets require annual vet visits, and are likely to need some sort of surgery at some point in their lives. Many people are not prepared for this eventuality, and surrendered animals frequently are in need of medical treatment

I truly hope that the ban on ferrets is lifted, however, I fear for an onslaught of surrenders in a year or two. I wish there was some way of requiring education before purchase to eliminate the impulse purchases, but I have no idea how to do that. We interview prospective adopters, and make sure they know what they are getting in to, and occasionally reject applicants for some reason. We also refuse to allow adoptions as gifts, unless the recipient comes in for a visit as well.

Please allow your residents the pleasure that these wonderful creatures can bring. The ferret community will expand to take in those destined to be discarded. The worst side effect of being a shelter operator, even worse than long hours and financial hardships, is that we end up disliking people in general, because of the few cold-hearted people that treat living creatures as if they were inanimate objects. The cure for this is to get down on the floor and let the ferrets climb over me. It is absolutely impossible to be in a bad mood when you have ferrets using you for a playground.

Larry Anderson
Scales and Tails Rescue
Randolph, NJ

From:	Roberta Moran
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Article 161 - Animals - Please Allow Ferrets
Date:	Tuesday, January 06, 2015 6:43:49 AM

I don't live in NYC so it's none of my business, but it makes no sense to me that you outlaw ferrets. They're a much better city pet than dogs. They produce less poop. They've been domesticated for thousands of years so they certainly don't qualify as a wild animal.

I would recommend that you do not allow pet stores to sell them, because I've yet to see a pet store that bothered to adequately educate the buyers about the ferret's needs. You might want to include a neutering, rabies, and distemper requirement. Other than that, I can think of no reason to restrict ferrets whatsoever. They are wonderful pets, except that they break your heart with their short lifespans.

From:	jeanne@ferretcompany.com
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Article 161 - Animals - Please Allow Ferrets
Date:	Tuesday, January 06, 2015 11:59:36 AM

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. In fact, due to their size and gentle nature, they are statistically a safer pet to people than either a dog or cat.

Ferrets are particularly delicate and benign neglect often ends in an injury or death of the ferret. For this reason, I believe the best way to obtain a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Jeanne Carley
jeanne@ferretcompany.com
650 269-1721

From:	Nancy Barbieri
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Article 161 - Animals - Please Allow Ferrets
Date:	Tuesday, January 06, 2015 12:23:53 PM

I would like to add my support to this bill. I have been a ferret owner for many years. The are a perfect apartment pet. Please consider lifting the ban on these perfect pets.

N. Barbieri
Sent from my iPad

From: Trinda Shepherd
To: Resolution Comments
Subject: ferret legalization
Date: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 1:10:02 PM

Dear Sir or Madam,
I would like very much to weigh in on the subject of Ferret Legalization in New York. As a ferret owner, I cannot express to you how much I love and enjoy the bonding that is part of my relationship with my pet. Ferrets are exceptional choices for people who want the companionship of a pet, but balance a very busy life against the needs of most "traditional" pets. Ferrets are a fantastic match for a busy lifestyle as they spend 18-20 hours per day sleeping with absolutely no need for interaction. They are perfectly happy and healthy in a controlled (caged) environment during that time. They adapt their schedule easily to that of their owner, and are very playful when they are receiving interaction. They are not nuisance pets as they are quiet and small, and they make very good apartment pets for those reasons as well. Please lift the ban on ferrets, and allow others to experience the fun of sharing their homes and lives with these social and engaging pets.

Thank You,

Trinda M. Shepherd
CSR-National Accounts
Shippers Supply Company
1735 West Burnett Ave
Louisville, KY 40210
P: 502-371-5372 (direct)
F: 502-635-7935
TShepherd@shipperssupplyco.com

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From:	Vinci, Amanda
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets
Date:	Tuesday, January 06, 2015 1:16:23 PM

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs.

Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Amanda Vinci
Art Director
JWT New York
466 Lexington Ave, New York, NY, 10017, United States
T +1 212 210 7949

From:	Victoria Miles
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Proposed Article 16/Ferrets
Date:	Tuesday, January 06, 2015 1:49:50 PM

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene

RE: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable diseases and conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules Ferrets

Dear Commissioners"
I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs.

Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or a shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank You
Vikki Miles
315Annette Ave
Interlachen Fl 32148

email. milesv44@yahoo.com

From: Angie McDowell
To: Resolution Comments
Subject: Proposed Article 161/Ferrets
Date: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 3:11:11 PM

Date: January 6 2015

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs. I have owned and rescued dozens of ferrets over the years and they are a joy to have; everyday with them is filled with laughter. They are the best cure for depression I have ever known.

Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I cannot tell you how many times I have been in a pet store and seen ferrets sitting in dirty cages, eating the wrong food, over crowed, and unkempt with dirty coats and untrimmed nails. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

With love from Angie and Adam McDowell and
the Animal Cracker Acres farm of:
the dogs Lakota, CB and Alejandro;
the mini pig Tinkerbell;
the mini horse "Mini Mistys Lil' Bit of my Broken Dreams";
the mini horse "Alaskan Rocky Road for Joetanya Justice"
the quarter horse "Mary Joes Biscuit and Gravy"
the 22lbs cat InuYasha;
the sheep Baa Dylan;
the goats Reba, Leeann, Cindy Loo and Loretta Lynn;
the ferrets Spruence and Tyconderoga;
the ducks Bailey, Kahlua, Skyy, Tia Maria, and Jimmy B;
the Roos Killian, Jagermeister, and Shock-Top;
the chicks Amstel, Beck, Yuengling, Nevada, Berryweiss, Allagash,and Corona;
"Furkids are like animal crackers- with so many shapes and types life is too short to just have one!"

From:	Mark Savides
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Ferret Ban
Date:	Tuesday, January 06, 2015 3:17:27 PM

Ferrets being Banned in NY is really silly. I am a form California native. I left my prominent tax paying job in California because if the bureaucracy of the California Department of fish and game prejudicial opposition to legalizing of ferrets. I vowed to never return to California until this unjust law is repealed. We have a right as citizens to choose our animal companions. Ferrets are affectionate and loving. The bond that is developed between ferrets and owners and other ferrets is like not other animal.

A ban on a Domesticated Animal is against our right to choose,and just because someone with an abuse of power does not like them is no reason to have them banned.

--
Mark Savides

From: suzanne beck
To: Resolution Comments
Subject: Article 161 - Animals - Please Allow Ferrets
Date: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 10:11:59 PM

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs.

Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.
Suzanne Beck

From:	April Altberg
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Lift the ban on ferret ownership in New York City
Date:	Wednesday, January 07, 2015 8:05:15 AM

I feel you should lift the ban on ferret ownership in New York City. I own two and find them to be wonderful intelligent pets, that with proper training are safe around children and the elderly.

From:	Kevin Matsil
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Ferrets
Date:	Wednesday, January 07, 2015 7:24:22 PM

Dear Ms.Burdeynik ,
My name is Kevin Matsil and I am a Science Teacher in Meriden, Ct.. I have made it my business to rescue ferrets in and around my community for 20 years. I have taught my students how to care for all animals they want to own. Ferrets by far are one the most desired pets by children AND the first to be abandoned by their parents. They see an animal in the pet store that is playful ,cute and loving: it doesn't take long before their needs and care become too much and they are abandon. I have rescued 13 ferrets and have had to endure the pain of several more that didn't survive.
Please do NOT allow the sale of ferrets in pet stores or allow ferrets that haven't been altered live in NYC. Pet stores promote their sale without giving the public enough information as to how much care they require.
Think of how many dogs and cats suffer at the hands of puppy mills and the number of households that treat a living animal like a toy that loses the interest of a child after the newness fades. We don't need to add another one of God's creatures to suffer the same fate.
Respectfully yours,

Kevin Matsil
36 knollfield Road
Meriden, Ct 06450-7121

Date: 1/7/2015

Received by DOHMH
JAN 13 2015
Office of General Counsel

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs.

Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Signature:

Printed Name: Kevin H. Matsil

Address (optional): 36 Knollfield Road Meriden Ct 06450-7121

E-mail or Telephone: matsilkevin@gmail.com

Additional comments (if any)

My name is Kevin Matsil and I am a Science Teacher in Meriden, Ct.. I have made it my business to rescue ferrets in and around my community for 20 years. I have taught my students how to care for all animals they want to own. Ferrets by far are one the most desired pets by children AND the first to be abandoned by their parents. They see an animal in the pet store that is playful ,cute and loving: it doesn't take long before their needs and care become too much and they are abandon. I have rescued 13 ferrets and have had to endure the pain of several more that didn't survive.
Please do NOT allow the sale of ferrets in pet stores or allow ferrets that haven't been altered live in NYC. Pet stores promote their sale without giving the public enough information as to how much care they require.
Think of how many dogs and cats suffer at the hands of puppy mills and the number of households that treat a living animal like a toy that loses the interest of a child after the newness fades. We don't need to add another one of God's creatures to suffer the same fate.
Respectfully yours,

Kevin Matsil
36 knollfield Road
Meriden, Ct 06450-7121

From:	Dave Heiland
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Ferrets/Legalization
Date:	Thursday, January 08, 2015 8:45:18 AM

Owning a pet Ferret should be legal. They are no different then owning a cat, dog, snake, rat, hamster, bird, lizard & ect. People need to get all the facts first/staight before passing judgement on things they don't understand.

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Joey TheTrainedFerret
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Legalizing ferrets in NYC
Date:	Wednesday, January 07, 2015 5:59:34 PM

To whom it may concern:

I request the ban on private domestic ferret ownership be lifted because they are small, clean, litter trainable, quite animals that are suited for life in NYC. I have created a YouTube channel to teach others about how trainable and lovable ferrets are. www.youtube.com/JoeyTheTrainedFerret With 7,000+ subscribers and over half a million views, people from all over the world have begun training their ferrets and are sending me back videos of what their ferrets have learned. They make wonderful pets and are not inherently dangerous as they are not more likely to bite than a cat or dog and there is now a FDA approved rabies vaccination.

Ferrets provide the positive and documented health benefits of any other traditional pet, while being a great alternative for people who may be allergic to cats or unable to walk a dog. Part of the reason I have a ferret myself is because I am allergic to dogs and my boyfriend is not fond of cats. A ferret has a personality that is similar to a dog with some traits of a cat. I have no allergies to ferrets, and they have enriched my life greatly. My heart is happy around my ferret Joey, and it is important to note that they make quiet pets. Quiet pets are great for the city, and because they sleep for approximately 18 hours/day it makes it convenient for single people who work a lot. It takes the guilt away when you have to work long hours.

I also ask that this ban is only lifted for private owners who will be required to own spayed and neutered animals, without allowing permits for breeding or pet shops in order to protect the animals and reduce the risk of ferrets becoming a fad animal that can overwhelm our shelters. Thank you for your time.

Courtnie Gregory and Joey the Trained Ferret

2015 JAN -8 AM 10: 10

Date: Jan 8, 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs.

Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Signature: Kim Wantroba

Printed Name: Kim Wantroba

Address (optional): 1804 Old Waterbury Rd, Cheshire, CT

E-mail or Telephone: kimwants@cox.net

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN -8 AM 10: 10

Date: 1/8/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs.

Petstore personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Signature: Diane Lilley

Printed Name: Diane Lilley

Address (optional): 28 Algonquin Rd Middlefield CT 06455

E-mail or Telephone: 860-349-1526

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN -8 AM 12: 32

January 10, 2015

Mary Travis Bassett, MD, MPH
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules

Dear Commissioner Bassett and fellow Commissioners:

I am writing to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

Domestic ferrets are friendly, quiet, non-destructive pets well suited to city living. There are no feral populations of domestic ferrets in any of the 47 states where they are allowed, including that part of New York State outside the five boroughs. Any animal injured or frightened may bite, however a gently handled, properly trained, well-cared for ferret does not. Due to their small size, the chance of a ferret causing significant harm to a human is minute.

Ferrets require a similar level of care as a dog or cat and since they are different than either, should have an educated owner. Therefore, I urge the City to not allow sales of ferrets in commercial pet stores. The resulting "fad" or impulse purchases will only further burden the City and local animal shelters. Instead, I recommend the humane alternative of only allowing ferrets to be adopted through nonprofit organizations.

Please allow those who love these happy little comedians of the animal world to bring laughter and joy to the people of New York City. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alan Paul Comiré

ALAN PAUL COMIRÉ
PO BOX 204350
AUGUSTA, GA 30917

P.S. I am a longtime supporter of ferrets and urge you to take this recommended action. Thank you!

Massachusetts Ferret Friends, Inc.

288 Grove Street
Suite 334
Braintree, MA 02184

Hotline: (781) 224-1098
Email: info@maferrets.org
Website: www.maferrets.org

2015 JAN -9 AM 11:17

January 9, 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

As President of Massachusetts Ferret Friends, a 501© (3) ferret shelter, I care about ferret welfare. Ferrets became legal to own in our state, which neighbors you, in March of 1996. Since that time the domestic ferret has never been a risk to the public. They are a very popular pet, right under dogs and cats and most people tend to have, on average, 3 ferrets in their home. They are an intelligent, inquisitive silly pet suitable for those people that take the time to understand their unique needs.

Pet store personnel, especially chain stores, do not properly educate their staff or the customer when they sell a ferret. A ferret is a commodity to them, not a beloved pet and I do not think they should be sold in any stores. There are a few ways one can get a ferret without going to a store: adopt from a humane society; adopt from a ferret shelter or contact a breeder. All these options will make sure the potential adopter/buyer knows what to expect from owning a ferret, show them how to care for and handle a ferret and be there to help with any questions that arise, unlike a pet store.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kathy Street
President, Mass Ferret Friends
president@maferrets.org

Dylan Cooper

Comment:
I have been a ferret owner for over 20 years and I fully support their legalization in NYC. I've always viewed the fact that they were banned in the first place to be an embarrassing case of ignorance and complete disregard of readily available information. Ferrets do make wonderful pets and the case against them is far-fetched at best. New York is one of the most amazing, progressive, and diverse cities in the world. It's time to lift this ridiculous ban that never should have been placed in the first place.
Agency: DOHMH

Jasmine Edwards

Comment:
Ferret ownership in NYC should ABSOLUTELY be legalized. I am an Indiana resident and I have 7 ferrets. They are not dirty animalsnor are they "wild". Actually cats are mammals who are more closely related to their wild relatives than are domesticated ferrets. It iisn't like NYC residents would be owning polecats, mink, or stoats. My ferrets are very tame and clean. They are very playful, they eat a dry kibble, and act just as any playful. You really are doing a disservice to your residents refusing to allow them the joy of owning a ferret. Please reconsider. I don't know anyone living in New York but I know how much I love my ferrets and I would love to see any responsible pet owner to have the same experience if they so choose.
Agency: DOHMH

Kevin Matsil

Comment:
My name is Kevin Matsil and I am a Science Teacher in Meriden, Ct.. I have made it my business to rescue ferrets in and around my community for 20 years. I have taught my students how to care for all animals they want to own. Ferrets by far are one the most desired pets by children AND the first to be abandoned by their parents. They see an animal in the pet store that is playful ,cute and loving: it doesn't take long before their needs and care become too much and they are abandon. I have rescued 13 ferrets and have had to endure the pain of several more that didn't survive. Please do NOT allow the sale of ferrets in pet stores or allow ferrets that haven't been altered live in NYC. Pet stores promote their sale without giving the public enough information as to how much care they require. Think of how many dogs and cats suffer at the hands of puppy mills and the number of households that treat a living animal like a toy that loses the interest of a child after the newness fades. We don't need to add another one of God's creatures to suffer the same fate. Respectfully yours, Kevin Matsil 36 knollfield Road Meriden, Ct 06450-7121
Agency: DOHMH

Stephen Jones

Comment:
Ferrets are simply babies with fur. They are so sweet, so playful but they never grow up. Their lives are so short they put a lifetime of love into the 5-8 years of their expected lives. Their only mission is to give and receive love. With ferrets you can never have a a bad day. These fur friends sleep 18-20 hours a day and even or should I say especially while they sleep they are a joy to watch. No need for pet stores to sell ferrets as the little ones are available from ferret knowledgeable shelters. Shelter operators screen adoptive parents and are available to answer questions regarding care and health. Companion animals help relieve stress and studies show that people live longer when they have a pet. Ferrets are the most social of pets and will die without human contact. So all in all a win-win situation by providing a home for a ferret. Ferrets will change your life forever. I am in Florida and I hope NYC will lift the ban so you can all experience the joy of ferrets.
Agency: DOHMH

Ashley Murray

Comment:
I am an RN from Las Vegas and have had my two babies for about a year and a half and they have been the greatest companions for me and also get along well with the younger ones in my family, ages 2 and 6. I would like to move to New York but am limited due to this ban. It would great to be able to experience your wonderful city and be able to take care of my pets and keep them healthy just as am I able to do in most other cities. I love them so much and would not move without them, needless to say, I take good care of them and they are always up to date on their vaccines. Please don't take NYC off my list of possible places to move to and enjoy. It has been my lifelong dream, so this can only show how much my little guys mean to me that this ban is holding me back.
Agency: DOHMH

Hyomyung Kim

Comment:
Ferret ownership in NYC should be legalized that they are not harmful as dogs and cats are not. They sleep for about 18 hrs a day n not making noisy. They are also a small type of animal which perfectly fits as city pets.
Agency: DOHMH

Katy Moore

Comment:
I fully support the legalization of ferrets in New York City, and appreciate the opportunity to support ferret owners by explaining why I feel this action is reasonable and justified. In reference to ferrets, I feel there is no factual basis for the current NYC Health Code §161.01, which states "wild animals are deemed to be any animals which are naturally inclined to do harm and capable of inflicting harm up on human beings." As current research indicates, and many veterinarians with professional expertise in small animals have confirmed, ferrets are not naturally inclined toward violent behavior. As with any domesticated animal, ferrets who are properly cared for do not exhibit violent tendencies. While it is true that kits are prone to nipping - just as any puppy or kitten (or human child) nips and bites while learning about their environment and how to behave, and most likely also attempting to expel excessive energy - if treated humanely, kits quickly grow into calmer adult ferrets and retire those nipping urges. Furthermore, the classification of ferrets as wild animals is unfounded - ferrets are fully domesticated and typically cannot survive if left to their own devices in the wild. Additionally, to outlaw ownership of an animal that poses such little risk to human health and safety seems contradictory when many other animals that pose serious threats to humans, and have caused numerous deaths across the nation, are acceptable for ownership. Incidents of ferret violence are extremely isolated, and of the few that I have read about, all have been traced to severe neglect and/or abuse by the owners. Ferrets react no differently when scared or abused than a cat or dog might, and thus, should be given the same consideration when discussing their capacity for violence, as well as their status as a pet animal. Health and safety concerns aside, I would also like to say that as a 20-year ferret owner, they make truly wonderful, memorable pets. As a dog and cat owner as well, I feel that ferrets are in a league of their own as pet animals, and can offer a very rewarding relationship to a caring owner. They have unique personalities, and are unlike any other domesticated animal in terms of how they behave. Their appearance alone sets them apart, but they are also curious, highly entertaining, and seem skilled at being both as aloof as a cat and loving as a dog. The weasel war dance is truly a hilarious sight to behold, it just inspires instantaneous fondness of these silly creatures. I have loved ferrets since I was a child; because of their uniqueness, they hold a special place in my life that neither a cat or dog, nor any other small animal, can replace. I would want anyone who desires to have a ferret as a companion animal to have that opportunity, as well. I hope that for these reasons and more, the representatives of New York City will consider adding ferrets to the list of beloved, legal pet animals. Good luck, ferrents of NYC.
Agency: DOHMH

Dr. Wilfredo Ba...

Comment:
I have specialized in the care of ferrets for well over 20 years, working very closely with FACT-The Ferret Association of Connecticut. I care deeply about ferret welfare and fully support the amendment to legalize ferrets. With ferrets, there is no harm with them being present. There is no reason for them not to be legal, and there are plenty reasons for them to be legal in terms of the companionship they provide. Ferrets do not cause more of health risk than the domestic dog or cat. And in my many years of experience, ferret owners are extremely passionate about their ferret companions and will go to any length to provide the best medical care available.
Agency: DOHMH

From: Glen74@aol.com
To: Resolution Comments
Subject: Re: Amemendments 161.15 cage or box dryers
Date: Friday, January 09, 2015 12:36:02 PM

RE: "Amendments 161.15 Use of cage or box dryers";

I am most appreciative for this forum and opportunity to express my experienced opinion, and the effects on our businesses to the legislative board. As the owner of a dog grooming facility in NYC for over 20 years and holding several U.S. Patents on grooming inventions; I would like to weigh in on what I believe is an overreaction to a legitimate safety concern regarding the utilization of cage/crate dryers used at dog grooming facilities. For millions of dogs and over 50 years, groomers have been modeling their businesses to efficiently groom multiple dogs simultaneously by utilizing cage dryers to dry dogs in preparation for their final style cuts. The actual number of burn accidents is an infinitesimal fraction of that. An outright ban is, in my opinion; an overreaction as a solution. These burn accidents occur due to just that; accidents. This legitimate safety concern can be addressed and remedied without having to compromise the efficiency practices of the grooming business itself. 1) The drying of dog hair does not require high heat, just dry air blown over the hair to absorb and transfer moisture off the dog, then up and away as vapor. It is the mistake of groomers to use a high heat "hot box" method. 2) Metal cages without vapor ventilation near the top become essentially ovens. 3) The biggest mistake is losing track of time while a dog is drying under conditions 1 & 2.

I propose legislation be towards mandating that only non-metal crates with ventilation near the top, in conjunction with the use of a timer be allowed. This should serve to greatly address this safety concern without radically compromising the grooming business.

From: Kathy Street
To: Resolution Comments
Subject: Proposed Article 161/Ferrets
Date: Friday, January 09, 2015 10:59:49 AM

January 9, 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene

Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31

Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

As President of Massachusetts Ferret Friends, a 501© (3) ferret shelter, I care about ferret welfare. Ferrets became legal to own in our state, which neighbors you, in March of 1996. Since that time the domestic ferret has never been a risk to the public. They are a very popular pet, right under dogs and cats and most people tend to have, on average, 3 ferrets in their home. They are an intelligent, inquisitive silly pet suitable for those people that take the time to understand their unique needs.

Pet store personnel, especially chain stores, do not properly educate their staff or the customer when they sell a ferret. A ferret is a commodity to them, not a beloved pet and I do not think they should be sold in any stores. There are a few ways one can get a ferret without going to a store: adopt from a humane society; adopt from a ferret shelter or contact a breeder. All these options will make sure the potential adopter/buyer knows what to expect from owning a ferret, show them how to care for and handle a ferret and be there to help with any questions that arise, unlike a pet store.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

--
☆☆

Kathy Street
President**, Massachusetts Ferret Friends, Inc.** 501(c)(3)
www.maferrets.org
https://www.facebook.com/maferrets
http://www.maferrets.org/shelter/foster.php

From: Krywos, Patty
To: Resolution Comments
Subject: Proposed Article 161/Ferrets
Date: Friday, January 09, 2015 1:00:11 PM
Attachments: doc10761020150109111801.pdf

Date: Jan 9, 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs.

Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Signature: P. Krywos

Printed Name: Patty Krywos

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: P_Krywos@yahoo

Additional comments (if any)

jeremy trim

Comment:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies. I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs. Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Agency: DOHMH

Glen Gaylinn

Comment:

RE: “Amendments 161.15 Use of cage or box dryers”; I am most appreciative for this forum and opportunity to express my experienced opinion, and the effects on our businesses to the legislative board. As the owner of a dog grooming facility in NYC for over 20 years and holding several U.S. Patents on grooming inventions; I would like to weigh in on what I believe is an overreaction to a legitimate safety concern regarding the utilization of cage/crate dryers used at dog grooming facilities. For millions of dogs and over 50 years, groomers have been modeling their businesses to efficiently groom multiple dogs simultaneously by utilizing cage dryers to dry dogs in preparation for their final style cuts. The actual number of burn accidents is an infinitesimal fraction of that. An outright ban is, in my opinion; an overreaction as a solution. These burn accidents occur due to just that; accidents. This legitimate safety concern can be addressed and remedied without having to compromise the efficiency practices of the grooming business itself. 1) The drying of dog hair does not require high heat, just dry air blown over the hair to absorb and transfer moisture off the dog, then up and away as vapor. It is the mistake of groomers to use a high heat "hot box" method. 2) Metal cages without vapor ventilation near the top become essentially ovens. 3) The biggest mistake is losing track of time while a dog is drying under conditions 1 & 2. I propose legislation be towards mandating that only non-metal crates with ventilation near the top, in conjunction with the use of a timer be allowed. This should serve to greatly address this safety concern without radically compromising the grooming business.

Agency: DOHMH

Natalie De Ferrari

Comment:
Ferrets are the 3rd most popuar pet in the country. It is time NYC approves of these innocent beings. Ferrets have been domesticated before the cat or dog by Egyptians since 1500 BC. They were used to hunt rats which is something NYC could use haha:) Ferrets are loving creatures and I had owned 5 before. They are harmless. They are in pet stores in Long Island. There is food for them (sold in pet stores)...They are smart, at times very lazy, and just love to cuddle and SLEEP. they do fine in a cage or a dog bed. They can be litter trained. They love to play hide and seek, and of course hide your stuff! All they do is play, eat, sleep, and more sleep. They are my bundle of joy:) Please consider uplifting this ban. Thank you for your time.

Supporting Document:
ferret_paper.pdf
Agency: DOHMH

AMERICAN FERRET ASSOCIATION, INC. (AFA)

POSITION STATEMENT ON FERRET LEGALIZATION

Despite a steady, nationwide increase in the acceptance of ferrets as household companion animals over the last twenty-five years – mainly due to tireless educational and other outreach efforts on the part of ferret advocates and veterinarians specializing in small mammal medicine – several legal prohibitions remain. The principal jurisdictions where possession of ferrets remains prohibited by law as of June 2014 are the states of California and Hawai'i, the District of Columbia, and the commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The largest U.S. cities where possession of ferrets remains prohibited by law are New York City NY, Salt Lake City UT, and Allentown PA. A decreasing number of smaller cities and towns across the United States also maintains prohibitions on ferrets. Enforcement of these ferret bans is inconsistent and ranges from vigilant to rare.

In all of these cases, the legal ban on the domestic ferret (*mustela putorius furo*) is the result of a misclassification of the ferret as either a wild animal, an exotic animal, an animal that is naturally inclined towards harming human beings, an animal naturally inclined towards forming harmful feral colonies, or some combination of all of the above. **This is directly contrary to the long-established consensus within the zoological, veterinary, and animal welfare communities that ferrets are fully domesticated, suitable and appropriate household companion animals, and neither wild nor naturally inclined towards harm.**

- All ferrets sold at retail or adopted through shelters, and most ferrets sold through breeders, are neutered.
- All ferrets sold or available to be adopted through shelters for the purpose of being household companion animals are specifically bred to be docile, friendly, and suitable for co-existence with human beings and cannot survive away from human caretaking for more than a brief time.
- No evidence exists of any feral colony of ferrets ever being formed within the United States.
- There has not been a single reported case in the United States of ferret-to-human rabies transmission since such recordkeeping began in 1951, and a USDA-approved rabies vaccine for ferrets has been available since 1992.
- Like all mammals, ferrets are capable of biting but do so at a significantly lower rate than cats and dogs.

Therefore, in keeping with its core mission of promoting, protecting, and providing information on the domestic ferret, the AFA:

- **supports the repeal of all legal prohibitions against maintaining the domestic ferret as a household companion animal**
- **opposes laws requiring places where ferrets are sold to display signs warning people of their alleged "natural inclination to do harm" and supports the repeal of such laws that currently exist**
- **opposes the classification of *mustela putorius furo* as a wild, exotic, or dangerous animal - a classification contradicted by both science and history**
- **supports the position of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) that ferrets are suitable companion animals**
- **supports reasonable restrictions that are no more burdensome than similar restrictions applied to dogs and cats are, such as low cost licensing (as is commonly required for dogs and cats) and required rabies vaccinations for ferrets aged four months and older**

January 5, 2015

2015 JAN -9 AM 2:45

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center
42-09 28th Street CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11)
Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to you to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets to live as pets in New York City and to require that they be vaccinated against rabies.

I care passionately about the welfare of all companion animals in general, and about that of ferrets in particular. While I am not currently a ferret guardian, nevertheless I have shared my home with many of them in the past. Domestic ferrets do not pose any risk to the public. They are tame, docile, affectionate pets for owners who understand them and their needs.

Pet store personnel – especially those in chain stores -- do not necessarily understand ferret husbandry, and cannot properly educate customers to whom they sell ferrets. For this reason I believe that these animals should not be sold in any stores. The ideal way – in fact, the only acceptable way -- to acquire a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or a ferret shelter, where the staff/volunteers are knowledgeable about them and can teach people to care for them in the way that they deserve.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Respectfully,

Carla L. White
clw51@sbcglobal.net

Sandy Burke
2 Spring St.
Portland, CT 06480

2015 JAN -9 AM 2:45

January 5, 2015

Mary Travis Bassett, MD, MPH
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11)
Proposed Rules

Dear Commissioner Bassett:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I have owned pet ferrets for many years and they are great pets. They have special needs that pet stores do not teach customers about, so I do not think they should be sold in pet stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter.

Thank you.

Please ban the sale of ferrets in petstores. All they are interested in is making a sale, not caring for the welfare of the animal. The ferrets that make it to the shelters are the luckyones; however it is only the tip of the iceberg - many more of these precious little animals suffer from abuse, neglect, death. Alone. Undetected. Please help.

Sandy Burke

From:	Valerie Ivany
To:	Resolution Comments
Cc:	Valerie Ivany
Subject:	Article 161 - Animals - Please Allow Ferrets
Date:	Friday, January 09, 2015 4:34:50 PM

Date: January 9, 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11)
Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs.

We have had pet ferrets for 30 years, most people find ferrets to be hypo allergenic. To have the opportunity to have pets/ferrets has been a blessing.

Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well. Thank you.

Sincerely, Valerie Ivany

BE WELL

From:	a b
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Ferrets should be legal in NYC
Date:	Friday, January 09, 2015 5:11:41 PM

Ladies and gentlemen:

I am an infectious diseases physician. I do not understand why ferrets should not be legally owned in NYC. Ferrets do NOT BITE. They are domesticated! I am more concerned about people who are bitten by OTHER PEOPLE because human mouths are much more bacteria laden than any dog or ferret.

The ban instated by Rudy Giuliani was enacted in ignorance of the facts. Please lift the ban on these lovely animals, which make wonderful city pets.

Alice Baruch, M.D., Ph.D.
430 East 57th St.
New York, NY 10022

From:	Shron
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	ferrets
Date:	Friday, January 09, 2015 5:15:43 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

Ferrets are delightful animals that do not smell bad nor do they bite if trained properly as would a puppy.

Ferrets make ideal pets for small apartments. They are small, and they can also be helpful in keeping down a large cockroach problem, as they will catch and eat them, as well as going after mice and rats. They can be paper trained when they are out of their cage and can be caged when no one is around to supervise them. Supervision of ferrets is for their safety, not that of humans.

Ferrets are not wild animals. They have been domesticated for 2,000 years and have been used for hunting rabbits, especially in Europe. In fact, poachers who wanted to use ferrets to catch rabbits on someone else's property would actually put them down their pants! to hide them. How dangerous could such an animal be if a man is willing to risk harm to his genitals to hunt with them. They were also used in this country before pesticides were developed to keep down rat populations.

As far as disease goes, I have never heard of a ferret having rabies or distemper and it is a widely known fact by scientists and veterinarians that if a ferret were to contract rabies it would be dead within 24 hours. Ferrets cannot survive outside the home with caretakers as can dogs and cats. They are not feral nor do they hunt in packs like dogs. They cannot jump to great heights like cats.

As far as bites go, some ferrets do so when playing, as a dog might, not out of viciousness. A ferret I knew, when in the company of a 9 month infant and 3 year old, was especially careful and curious around them. He treated them differently then he did adult humans. No young children or infants should be left alone with any animal that is not caged or even caged, as a child might stick his or her finger in a cage of any animal. I tried to find statistics of any ferret bites in the U.S. but could not find anything, while I discovered that there were several thousands of dog bites every year, some even causing death. Cat scratches and bites are much more dangerous than a ferret bite, which rarely breaks the skin. I have a 6-inch scar from a cat scratch that occurred while I was trying to put my cat in a carrier. I've been around many different ferrets and have never had such an experience. Anyone who says a ferret ate their baby's fingers is outright lying because there's no way a ferret could reach an infant in a crib, nor would it want to or be capable of eating an infant's fingers. The prey of their wild cousins, the European polecat, is small rodents and insects, not humans, infants included.

As far as smell goes, ferrets pick up the smell of their surroundings. Thus if their bedding and cage smell bad, they will pick up this odor. A ferret I knew, who lived in PA, after walking through a patch of tomato plants came out smelling just like them! They do have a mild musky odor but it is not unpleasant and often smells like a fresh flowers.

I'd like to close my comments with a personal story. I have a friend whose life was saved by a ferret. She is disabled, was living alone and was severely depressed and

had little contact with people. Her ferret got her out of bed and his silly antics made her laugh. His need for care gave her structure. Her love for him, which she raised from a kit, caused her to decide not to kill herself for fear that no one would take care of him as she did. Everyone she encountered with her ferret in her apartment building--as well as many people in the street--liked him very much and became interested themselves in having ferrets as pets. I have also known people in NJ who had ferrets and I loved visiting them because the ferrets always made me laugh. How these sweet, funny creatures could be categorized with lions, tigers and elephants is beyond me.

I urge you to legalize these lovely animals, which are the third most popular mammal pet in the U.S. They are also legal in New York State, so why shouldn't they be in New York City? They were made illegal by former Mayor Guiliani who had no clear evidence for doing so. This is a man who locked his own dog in a trunk to ensure that it would not relieve itself in his car. Is this the kind of person we are going to rely on to determine which animals should or should not be legal? I would think not. Rather, I would think that the person or persons who are responsible for deciding which animals should be illegal would do their own research, including spending some time with the animals in question themselves.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sharon Edwards

From:	1rgbg@comcast.net
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Proposed Article 161/Ferrets
Date:	Saturday, January 10, 2015 10:53:57 AM
Attachments:	Scan_Doc0054.pdf

Please free the ferrets - they are by far the best Domestic pet we have owned in 17 years..
Sincerely,
Rosemary German

Date: 1/10/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs.

Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Signature: Rosemary German

Printed Name: ROSEMARY GERMAN

Address (optional): 63 Palmer Road Plympton, MA 02367

E-mail or Telephone: 1NGBG@Comcast.net

Additional comments (if any)

Free the ferrets – they are the best domestic pet we have ever owned!

Rose

From:	Hector Pachas
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Proposed Article 161/Ferrets
Date:	Saturday, January 10, 2015 6:09:26 PM

January 10th, 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions
(Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

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neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City
and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

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public. They are nice pets for owners who
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customers when they sell ferrets. I do
not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a
ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or
a Ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people
to care for them well.

Thank you.

Hector Pachas
46 Taylor St Apt 303
Stamford, CT 06902
hmpachas@gmail.com

From: nyclpg@aol.com
To: Resolution Comments
Subject: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets
Date: Saturday, January 10, 2015 9:10:21 PM

Date: Jan 10, 2015
New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:
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and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.
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Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do
not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or
ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Printed Name: Laurel Garron
Address: 330 East 70th St, 2A, NY, NY 10021
E-mail or Telephone: 212-650-0980

MELODY HAYS

Comment:
I have had pet ferrets for years. I got my first at age 16 and am now 44. I currently have 5 of them. They make wonderful pets. I fully support the legalization of spayed and neutered ferrets in NYC. Spaying and neutering is an important part of a healthy ferret, as well as a crucial part of controlling pet overpopulation. I also do NOT want NYC to allow the sale of ferrets in pet stores, as pet store ferret sales will NOT benefit ferrets.
Agency: DOHMH

Jaime Liddick

Comment:
NYC should definitely lift the ban on domestic ferrets. If you can own a dog or a cat in the city, there is no reason that you shouldn't be able to own a ferret as well. I hope this is the beginning of a movement to allow ferrets to be legal in all fifty states.
Agency: DOHMH

Veronica Gallea

Comment:
Regarding restricting the use of cage or box dryers by facilities that care for animals. Dryers are useful, safe tools when operated by qualified individuals. The problem is not the dryers but the lack of conscientious use by untrained people. The solution to the problem of dryer accidents, as well as a multitude of other animal related mishaps, is to require dog groomers, as well as other animal care personnel, to be licensed by the state of New York, as are so many other professions. I have been grooming dogs for 42 years. I studied my trade as an apprentice under a master groomer for 3 years before opening my own dog and cat grooming salon on the Upper East Side of N.Y. 39 years ago. I wished then, as I do now, that there were strict requirements and tests for groomers. It would elevate dog grooming to a truly professional level and certainly eliminate the needless suffering of animals that have been injured, or worse, by untrained or poorly trained individuals.
Agency: DOHMH

Veronica Gallea

Comment:
Glen Gaylinn is absolutely correct. I only have fiberglass cages in my store and never use a cage dryer on any setting other than warm or cold, depending on the need of the individual animal. Although timers are also helpful in assuring the safety of an animal, I do advocate a set up where the cages are in full and constant view of the groomers, as is the case in my shop.
Agency: DOHMH

From:	Sukie Crandall
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	ferret legislation
Date:	Monday, January 12, 2015 9:21:33 PM

NYC Health Dept

303 9th Ave

NYC, NY 10001

And

Gotham Center, 42-09 28th St, CN 31

Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Dear Health Commissioners,

It is essential that anyone with a respect for science and for best representing the citizenry use hard data rather than rumor. One such rumor is that ferrets are prone to violence, when actual numbers adjusted per capita animal show exactly the opposite.

State health departments keep figures of serious bite numbers per species, and taking into account the billions spent annually in the U.S. on ferret supplies and figures from just the largest farms (even though there are many smaller ones as well as many private breeders), along with the typical lifespan of 7 years +/- 1.5 years, will give you a bit of an idea of how many millions of pet ferrets are in the United States. The serious bite rate is actually very low for domestic ferrets in comparison with domestic dogs or domestic cats. In a study by Dr. Freddie Ann Hoffman, then a pediatrician for the FDA, the rate of serious bites by domestic ferrets was comparable to the serious bite rate for domestic rabbits, a very low rate per capita animal which should not be a great surprise. Here is information on that study: Ferret serious bite rates studied by Dr. Freddie Hoffman showed a serious bite rate that is similar to pet rabbits, a rate that was about 1/200th that of dogs PER CAPITA PET. “Ferrets – Pet of Nineties?” can be found in "FDA Veterinarian", May/June 1991, Vol. VI, Number III.

In 2004, when the estimated number of pet ferrets was 5 million, Wall Street Journal reporter, Ken Wells said on the Leonard Lopate radio show on WNYC that ferrets amounted to over 2 billion (Yes, with a "B") dollars worth of business in the U.S. annually. At the time the total amount spent for pets and their needs annually in the U.S. added up to 32 Billion. Two billion dollars is a lot of commerce and a decent chunk of that 32 Billion. During the last 11 years ferrets have only become more popular, and the estimated national number from 2009 of between 8 to 10 million pet ferrets in the United States is sure to have increased.

To assist you so that you can be sure of having actual recent hard data I suggest contacting the relevant sections of the various state health departments, and have included URLs to ease that chore greatly since you can use the list at the NASPHV site and just click on the email addresses.

Use these departments for ONLY their own data. Why? When pursuing a report about Massachusetts in a California F&G resource years ago I learned from the people in Massachusetts, including the individual said to be the source, that the comments had been so deeply edited as to say the opposite of what that MA expert had actually said.

****

The task of finding the relevant experts and quite of bit of other useful data can be greatly shortened by utilizing the help of the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians:

http://www.nasphv.org/index.html

These webpages will be especially useful:

http://www.nasphv.org/Documents/StatePublicHealthVeterinariansByState.pdf

(contact information for your staffs to use to get serious bite rates per state)

and

http://www.nasphv.org/documentsCompendia.html

(rabies and other documents)

I have no desire to make your task more difficult when the hard data supports that serious bite rates for ferrets is very low.

****

Making a recommendation or taking a vote without that essential information would be a gross injustice to NYC and to its citizens, and would deeply undermine respect for you and for your office.

In NYC historically before the advent of rodenticides ferrets were used by professionals to scare rats from burrows so that the trappers could catch them, or kill them with clubs or dogs, similar to what is done in Europe with colonizing rabbits. How is the rat problem in NYC doing now?

Please, note that IMRAB 3 rabies vaccination (tested so far only for one year's effectiveness in ferrets though it MIGHT last longer) has been recognized by the FDA and other experts as effective protection for ferrets for decades, that the CDC has quite a few years ago very comprehensively studied multiple strains of rabies in ferrets (and for the most efficient contact single contact I suggest their Dr. Charles Rupprecht — though others might also have been on all of the relevant studies), and that to date there are no reports worldwide of rabies ever being passed from a ferret since they tend to die before that is possible — though it is a theoretical possibility with ones who are unvaccinated and exposed so vaccination does make sense.

News stories: as the saying goes, “Man bites dog” is what sells papers. So does sensationalism. Your own offices and officials have too often been victimized by that. So have ferrets. That too often sadly means that in some media reporters pass along rumors and false slants as if they were fact. The most recent example is from a few years ago (not bad when you think of the millions of ferrets in the U.S.) and in that report it is NOT certain that the ferret ever committed the deed. That was the case of negligent parents who left their daughter in a swing chair for hours while they went out and got drunk. Their testimony at first lied about that absence and some other factors. On their return the father said that he saw the ferret licking blood by the daughter who was missing fingers and killed the ferret. When examined according to press reports the ferret had blood in the stomach but did NOT have fingers, nor did any of the ferret waste piles. Bone would have existed. Ferrets DO lick wounds as a healing response, and the presence of only blood supports that action. The dog was never checked, the hinges of the swing seat which was thrown away without the police inspecting it, and other options besides the ferret were never considered. Given the many lies in which the parents were caught it has always seemed strange that the father blaming the ferret was never deeply considered despite the ferret necropsy results.

Years ago I checked into the few ferret attack cases reported in the U.S. Each one involved negligent and even abusing adults. Some turned out to not even involve ferrets when more thoroughly investigated.

There are people who actually nurture a false impression of ferret ferocity. The truth of the “sport” of ferret legging is that if the ferrets are used to being in clothing or are tired they will just sleep in there. If that were widely known it would undermine the show. Hiding ferrets in clothing historically was a common practice for poachers who used ferrets to scare rabbits from burrows, and it was important for the poachers to have others think the worst of ferrets so that they would not catch on. That might have led to the almost fictional sport of ferret legging.

Having ferrets cuddling in clothing is not unusual. I often will put a ferret inside a shirt if we are at the veterinary hospital to calm the ferret, and sleeping or sick ones ride around at times in my shirt. At ferret farms it is quite common for people to carry around the older kits in large breast pockets. A popular current magic trick uses this ferret appreciation of riding in clothing to make a coat with flaps and inside pockets look like it was a coat composed of living ferrets.

Let me tell you about the day when Hilbert, a ferret we were fortunate to have in our family, perhaps saved my life. Hilbert was very trustworthy so was out of the ferret room while my husband was catching a short walk outside. I have asthma. Our furnace was pulling in fumes from a diesel machine that a contractor was operating at the base of the hill near the condos’ air intakes for their furnaces and ACs (without warning residents). Instead of waking when the house began to fill with fumes I stayed asleep and groggy till Hilbert climbed the bed and kissed and nuzzled my face until I awoke. Of course, I immediately opened windows on the other side of our home and shut off the furnace then used my meds. While I thought that Hilbert had saved me from a hospitalization my allergist said he probably saved my life. That story surprises many people who have never met ferrets but interestingly it rarely surprises people who know ferrets. You might like to get to know some ferrets and see what I mean.

Sukie Crandall

Ferrets make the world a game.

Recommended ferret health links:

https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ferrethealth/info

http://ferrethealth.org/archive/

http://www.miamiferret.org/

http://www.ferrethealth.msu.edu/

all ferret topics:

http://listserv.ferretmailinglist.org/archives/ferret-search.html

"All hail the procrastinators for they shall rule the world tomorrow."

(2010, Steve Crandall)

A nation is as free as the least within

Sukie (not a vet) Ferrets make the world a game.

Recommended ferret health links:
https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ferrethealth/info
http://ferrethealth.org/archive/
http://www.miamiferret.org/
http://www.ferrethealth.msu.edu/
all ferret topics:
http://listserv.ferretmailinglist.org/archives/ferret-search.html

"All hail the procrastinators for they shall rule the world tomorrow."
(2010, Steve Crandall)

A nation is as free as the least within it.

From:	Lonny Eachus
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Legalize Ferrets in NYC
Date:	Tuesday, January 13, 2015 1:08:15 AM

I honestly don't know what all the fuzz is about. Ferrets are friendly animals with an intelligence on the order of a dog or cat.

Ferrets have been domesticated for at least 2500 years (approximately as long as cats), and even since Europeans came to N. America there have been ferrets here. They have NEVER, at any time, been known to breed in the wild or form feral colonies, anywhere or at any time in N. America. (That's around 500 years or so we're talking about.) There is just exactly zero reason to believe they'd start now.

Cats, on the other hand, can and do go feral, and start wild colonies. So why are cats legal but ferrets not? I mean, what kind of "reasoning" is that?

It just doesn't make any sense. And any law that is not based on reality is a bad law.

Lonny Eachus
==========
lonny6@gmail.com

Date: JAN 8, 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs.

Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Signature: Kaylin Gifford

Printed Name: Kaylin Gifford

Address (optional): N/A

E-mail or Telephone: N/A

Additional comments (if any)

Received by DOHMH
JAN 13 2015
Office of General Counsel

Date: 1/8/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs.

Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Signature: Janet Anderson

Printed Name: Janet Anderson

Address (optional): _____

E-mail or Telephone: jander01@cox.net

Additional comments (if any)

Received by
JAN 13 2015
Office of Gen Counsel

January 10, 2015

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules

Dear Commissioners:

I am a licensed veterinarian in Connecticut (state). I have treated domestic ferrets in my practice and believe they are good companion pets when owners are educated about their care and needs.

I support allowing spayed and neutered ferrets in New York City, and support an annual rabies vaccination requirement. I also believe ferrets should be adopted out with an age-appropriate series of canine distemper vaccinations.

I do not support sales of ferrets in pet stores. Store clerks do not adequately explain to prospective owners a ferret's specific needs, habits, and proper veterinary care.

Sincerely,

Signature Paul A. Chace DVM

Printed Name, Degree: PAUL A. CHACE, DVM

Vet Clinic Name: ADVANCED VETERINARY CARE

Address: 376 Scott Swamp Rd. Farmington, CT 06032

Phone: 860-677-0309 E-mail or website: advancedvetcare@comcast.net

Received by DOH
JAN 13 2015
Office of General Counsel

6 January 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners: I strongly wish to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies. I care deeply for the domesticated ferret's welfare.

Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. As a disabled American Veteran, I can attest that they are wonderful companion animals for those of us with post-traumatic stress disorder and further, for owners who understand their minimal needs.

Pet store personnel, especially those in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I whole-heartedly believe in licensed, small private breeders, and shelter adoption versus shopping for ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt from a breeder, humane society, or ferret shelter where they are far more educated in the husbandry of ferrets. Further, there is a plethora of internet sites for basic, intermediate, and advanced ferret care.

I have exclusively kept ferrets in the Commonwealth of Virginia since 1992. I am very active in the ferret community, serving in several volunteer and advisory capacities. How wonderful it would be to see ferrets and ferret shows lawful again in New York City.

Very Respectfully,

BRIAN K. CARR
200 KILBY SHORES DR.
SUFFOLK, VA 23434
(757) 816-8781
ferretsrlife@yahoo.com

Received by DOH
JAN 13 2015
Office of General Counsel

[redacted]

Date: _1/3/2014_____

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs.

Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Signature: Linda G. Gallmeyer

Printed Name: __Linda Lee Gallmeyer
Address (optional):

25 Overbrook ave
Tonawanda NY 14150
E-mail or Telephone: _ferretgirl@roadrunner.com

Additional comments (if any)
Ferrets are extremely lovable social animals and very gentle. You must know how to take care of them so I would suggest you speak to a vet or get a book. To deny people the right to own these lovable critters is not American. It is crazy that people says my ferret hurt my baby....Maybe they should have kept a eye on where there ferret was and if the baby pulled it tail??? A dog or car can do much more damage than a ferret. Please I ask you to consider lifting the ban on ferrets. It was because of a ferret my mom is still here today, the love and devotion a ferret has is nameless.
Thank you
Linda.

Received by DOHMH
JAN 13 2015
Office of General Counsel

Date: JAN. 6, 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs.

Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Signature: Cheryl Sims

Printed Name: CHERYL SIMS

Address (optional): 11842 LITTLE RD KINGSTON, OK 73439

E-mail or Telephone: dcsims1@gmail.com

Additional comments (if any)

Received by DOHMH
JAN 13 2015
Office of General Counsel

Date: Jan. 10, 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

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Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Signature: Charles J Buonasera

Printed Name: Charles J. Buonasera

Address (optional): 7 Barone Dr, Coram, N.Y. 11727

E-mail or Telephone: zamp@optonline.net

Additional comments (if any)

Received by DOHMH
JAN 13 2015
Office of General Counsel

Date: Jan. 9, 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

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Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Received by DOHMH
JAN 13 2015
Office of General Counsel

Signature: Carol A Krause

Printed Name: CAROL A KRAUSE

Address (optional): 116 Holly Drive Stowe PA 19464

E-mail or Telephone: CAROLSFF@comcast.net

Additional comments (if any)

I have sheltered ferrets for many years. I know that the points made above are true. The main reason pet stores should not be allowed to sell ferrets is because they take them from the mother before they can potty train them. This causes the most abandonment cases. I know. I have had babies and see how the Moms train them. If people have to seek out rescued ferrets, there will be less impulse buying. I could go on and on but will not.

2015 JAN 14 PM 2:32

Date: 1/14/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

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Thank you.

Signature: Michele Scorpio

Printed Name: Michele Scorpio

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: akitagirl1@verizon.net

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN 14 PM 2:32

Date: 1/14/2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

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Thank you.

Signature: Kristina Males

Printed Name: Kristina Males

Address (optional): _____

E-mail or Telephone: kristina_males@my.uri.edu

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN 14 PM 2:33

Date: 1/14/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

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Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Signature: Donald Plumb

Printed Name: Donald Plumb

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: ferretmaster1@cox.net

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN 14 PM 2:35

Date: 1/14/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

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Thank you.

Signature: Daniel Cruz

Printed Name: Daniel cruz

Address (optional): 19 clematis st. Providence, RI 02908

E-mail or Telephone: 401-632-5665

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN 14 PM 2:35

Date: 1/14/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

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Thank you.

Signature: Sonja Plumb

Printed Name: Sonja Plumb

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: 401-732-4055

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN 14 PM 2:37

Date: January 11, 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs. They also are completely dependent on their "pet-parents" for their survival!

Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Signature: Kimberly J. Morton-Diehl, and family. (AGE 49)

Printed Name: Kimberly J. Morton-Diehl, and family.

Address (optional): 203 Maple Avenue Dundalk MD. 21222

E-mail or Telephone: (410) 288-6137

Additional comments (if any) PLEASE READ, THANK YOU!

I have personally had to "rescue" a ferret from (or two) pet stores. They should not be "housed" in fish tanks, (and they were) and they were living in filth, their own excrement, pine chips, (bad for their respiratory systems, feet, and eyes etc...) and had urine + feces mixed in with their food. The worst housing for a loving, gentle, fearful baby ferret. He was no doubtedly ill from the above and was taken to get veterinary care. Personell of pet stores are not educated about them and are often afraid. I do not recommend sales at Pet Stores, it makes life worse for ferrets, then, they end-up in shelters. over Please →

January 5, 2015

Mary Travis Bassett, MD, MPH
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11)
Proposed Rules

Dear Commissioner Bassett:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I have owned pet ferrets and they are great pets. They have special needs that pet stores do not teach customers about, so I do not think they should be sold in pet stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter.

Thank you.

Deborah A. Brown
5845 Oakville Dr
Santa Maria Ca 93455
805 938 5685

Received by DOHMH
JAN 14 2015
Office of General Counsel

Michael Ryley Bradbury 218 Merryall Road New Milford, CT 06776

E-Mail: Bradbury2@Charter.net

January 8, 2015

Mary Travis Bassett, MD, MPH
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street - CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11)

Dear Commissioner Bassett,

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

My wife and I have owned ferrets for many years and have found them to be endearing pets and companions. They are mischievous little friends who can cuddle with their person and can affect a positive mood. They can be trained and are exceptionally clean. They do have special needs that people need to be informed about and rarely do receive the necessary information when purchased at pet stores. I do not believe that they should be sold in pet stores but only by those who know the breed and can be sure the purchaser understands all of their needs. The humane societies and ferret shelters are the best clearing centers for these small mammals.

I appreciate your consideration of my comments in making a decision regarding the Articles which are being discussed.

Sincerely yours,

Michael R. Bradbury

Michael R. Bradbury

Received by DOHMH
JAN 14 2015
Office of General Counsel

Received by DOHMH
JAN 14 2015
Office of General Counsel

Date: 1-8-15

Received by DOHMH
JAN 14 2015
Office of General Counsel

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

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Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Signature: John M. McMahan

Printed Name: John M. McMahan

Address (optional): 19 Delogo Dr. Griswold, CT 06351

E-mail or Telephone:

Additional comments (if any)

Over the years I've had 22 ferrets and found them to be ideal pets. Somewhat more care intensive than cats, but much less noisy. With the exception of 2 they all came through adoption from shelters locally or F.A.C.T. in Hartford. They are ideal for apartment dwellers.

2015 JAN 14 PM 1:27

January 5, 2015

Mary Travis Bassett, MD, MPH
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11)
Proposed Rules

Dear Commissioner Bassett:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I don't currently own ferrets but I have in the past and I care about their welfare. When they are handled kindly they are even less likely to bite than a cat or a dog. Ferrets are not a risk to the public.

Pet stores do not educate customers when they sell ferrets, so I do not think they should be sold in stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Denise Bak
Suffield, CT

January 10, 2015

2015 JAN 14 PM 1:27

Mary Travis Bassett, MD, MPH
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules

Dear Commissioner Bassett and fellow Commissioners:

I am writing to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

Domestic ferrets are friendly, quiet, non-destructive pets well suited to city living. There are no feral populations of domestic ferrets in any of the 47 states where they are allowed, including that part of New York State outside the five boroughs. Any animal injured or frightened may bite, however a gently handled, properly trained, well-cared for ferret does not. Due to their small size, the chance of a ferret causing significant harm to a human is minute.

Ferrets require a similar level of care as a dog or cat and since they are different than either, should have an educated owner. Therefore, I urge the City to not allow sales of ferrets in commercial pet stores. The resulting "fad" or impulse purchases will only further burden the City and local animal shelters. Instead, I recommend the humane alternative of only allowing ferrets to be adopted through nonprofit organizations.

Please allow those who love these happy little comedians of the animal world to bring laughter and joy to the people of New York City. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

January 10, 2015

2015 JAN 14 PM 1:27

Mary Travis Bassett, MD, MPH
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules

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Sincerely,

Annie Fine

January 10, 2015

2015 JAN 14 PM 1:27

Mary Travis Bassett, MD, MPH
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules

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Sincerely,

Gracie Fine

Ann Marie Lee
33 Crossmon Rd
New Milford, CT 06776
860-354-2988

2015 JAN 14 PM 1:27

January 5, 2015

Mary Travis Bassett, MD, MPH
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11)
Proposed Rules

Dear Commissioner Bassett:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I don't currently own ferrets but I have in the past and I care about their welfare. When they are handled kindly they are even less likely to bite than a cat or a dog. Ferrets are not a risk to the public.

Pet stores do not educate customers when they sell ferrets, so I do not think they should be sold in stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Ann Marie Lee

Ms. Bassett, Ferrets have been in my life since 1983, I have owned & fostered 20 ferrets since that time. They are wonderful creatures that make you smile day after day! They are not dangerous. Of course, all animals can bite, but I have more scars from my cat! They would be a perfect pet for someone in the city. Sincerely Ann Marie Lee

January 7, 2015

Mary Travis Bassett, MD, MPH

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31

Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules

Dear Commissioner Bassett:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies, though I do not support their purchase from pet stores.

I have owned ferrets since 1993, purchasing my first five animals with little or no information from the pet store staff. The following 25+ ferrets were added to my home from the local SPCA or from private owners that could no longer care for them for varied reasons. These privately owned ferrets were all purchased from pet stores. The reasons for finding new homes usually were that the owners did not realize the care required or the ferrets' medical needs and costs. This information is not obtained from the pet stores as I found out with my first 5 ferrets. So often buyers see these adorable animals and HAVE to have them, then realize the care/cost required and get rid of them. Unfortunately, not always humanely or finding suitable homes. Most are surrendered to pet shelters. Therefore, I think ferrets should not be sold from pet stores, but obtained from local shelters where the new owners can also obtain reliable pet care information.

I thank you for your consideration regarding this important matter. Every animal deserves a safe and loving home.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne G Robinson

Marianne G. Robinson, DNH, BSN, RN

Date: 1-13-15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs.

Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Signature:

Printed Name: LINDA E. BOWEN

Received by DOHMH
JAN 15 2015
Office of General Counsel

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: linda@cmsincorporated.net

Additional comments (if any) Too many myths surround many animals in our world today. Please use science based information to make your decision. Ferrets do make great pets for apartment dwellers, but please don't allow them to be sold. The people who end up selling domestic animals have lost sight of the welfare of those animals.

Thank you –

Date: 1/9/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs.

Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Signature:

Printed Name: David M. Lifson

Address (optional): Meriden, CT

E-mail or Telephone: lifson@gmail.com

Additional comments (if any)

Received by DOH
JAN 15 2015
Bureau of

Received
2015
Office of Counsel

Date: _____

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs.

Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Signature: Maryann Beare

Printed Name: Maryann Beare

Address (optional): 58 Easy Way Catskill NY 12414

E-mail or Telephone: 518.821.0950

Additional comments (if any)

Received by DOHMH
JAN 15 2015
Office of General Counsel

101 Old Town Rd.
Ashford, CT 06278

11 January 2015

Mary Travis Bassett, MD, MPH
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

RE: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules

Dear Dr. Bassett and fellow Commissioners:

This letter is in support of amendments to the above Articles to permit neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City, requiring also that they be vaccinated for rabies. As a former resident of New York City (when I was a mammalogy student at the American Museum of Natural History), I am very interested that the city lift its ban on these wonderful animals.

Domestic ferrets are small, friendly, quiet, and non-destructive pets, well suited to city living. There are no feral populations of domestic ferrets in any of the 47 states in which they are permitted, including that part of New York State outside the five boroughs. Any animal injured or frightened may bite; however, a gently handled, properly trained, and well cared for ferret does not. Due to their small size, the chance of a ferret causing significant harm to a human is miniscule.

Ferrets require a similar level of care as does a dog or cat and, since they are different than either, should have an educated owner. Therefore, I urge the City to **prohibit** the sale of ferrets in commercial pet stores. Impulse and uneducated purchases will only further burden the city and local animal shelters as many of the animals are subsequently abandoned or turned in. The better alternative is to encourage adoption of ferrets through nonprofit organizations, who can assess the potential owner and provide education and guidance. After regrettably buying my first ferret, I have only adopted subsequently—I can attest that there are no shortage of animals needing a good home, and I have had only wonderful pets in the process.

Please allow those living in New York City who love these happy little comedians of the animal world to enjoy them legally, with the opportunity to get them veterinary care when they need it. Ferrets bring laughter and joy to good owners.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Nancy A. Neff

Nancy A. Neff, Ph.D.

Received by DOHMH
JAN 15 2015
Office of General Counsel

January 10, 2015

Mary Travis Bassett, MD, MPH
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules

Dear Commissioner Bassett and fellow Commissioners:

I am writing to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

Domestic ferrets are friendly, quiet, non-destructive pets well suited to city living. There are no feral populations of domestic ferrets in any of the 47 states where they are allowed, including that part of New York State outside the five boroughs. Any animal injured or frightened may bite, however a gently handled, properly trained, well-cared for ferret does not. Due to their small size, the chance of a ferret causing significant harm to a human is minute.

Ferrets require a similar level of care as a dog or cat and since they are different than either, should have an educated owner. Therefore, I urge the City to not allow sales of ferrets in commercial pet stores. The resulting "fad" or impulse purchases will only further burden the City and local animal shelters. Instead, I recommend the humane alternative of only allowing ferrets to be adopted through nonprofit organizations.

Please allow those who love these happy little comedians of the animal world to bring laughter and joy to the people of New York City. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sheryl A. Atencio
35 Chicago Ave
Groton, CT 06340

Received by DOHMH
JAN 15 2015
Office of General Counsel

Date: Jan 9, 15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

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Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Signature: Anna Zancan

Printed Name: Anna Zancan

Address (optional): 18 Southern Blvd Danbury Ct. 06810

E-mail or Telephone: annamz5454@yahoo.com

Additional comments (if any)

I had always had dogs & cats as pets. Then one day a friend found a ferret in his yard. Almost bare of fur & hungry. I became the "mom of a ferret." Wonderful pets. I have had several since. and love these animals.

Received L. DOHMH
JAN 15 2015
Office of General Counsel

Date: 1-10-15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

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Thank you.

Signature: Jaime L. Landry

Printed Name: Jaime L. Landry

Address (optional): 3 S Railroad Ave, Derry N.H 03038

E-mail or Telephone: 603-845-8186

Additional comments (if any)

Received by DOH
JAN 15 2015
Office of General Counsel

Date: 1-12-2014

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

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Thank you.

Signature: Marie Young

Printed Name: MARIE YOUNG

Address (optional): _____

E-mail or Telephone: _____

Additional comments (if any)

JAN 1
Office of General Counsel

Date: JAN. 13, 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

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Thank you.

Signature: Suzanne Jacques

Printed Name: SUZANNE JACQUES

Address (optional): _____

E-mail or Telephone: S.KUPACS@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Additional comments (if any)

I HAVE HAD FERRETS IN THE PAST AND THEY MAKE EXCELLANT PETS!

JAN 15 2015

Received by DOHMH
JAN 15 2015
Office of General Counsel

January 5, 2015

Mary Travis Bassett, MD, MPH
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11)
Proposed Rules

Dear Commissioner Bassett:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I have owned pet ferrets for many years and they are great pets. They have special needs that pet stores do not teach customers about, so I do not think they should be sold in pet stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter.

Thank you.

Patricia A. Shaskin

PS. Ferrets make wonderful pets and companions. They can be trained to use a litter box so they don't need to be walked and they don't make any loud sounds (like barking). Thank you.

Stephanie Richmond

Comment:
As a board member of a ferret rescue organization, I urge the city to pass the proposed article to allow ferrets to be owned as pets within city limits with the provisions that they be vaccinated for rabies at 12 weeks of age, be spayed and neutered, and not be allowed to be sold in pet stores within the city. Ferrets make wonderful apartment pets as they are quiet and live in cages when their owners are not home. I've owned ferrets for over a decade and know that the many homeless ferrets in the NYC area would find happy homes with residents of the Big Apple!
Agency: DOHMH

wendy belward

Comment:
I am writing to request lifting the ban on ferrets in NYC. Ferrets are gentle souls, who provide unconditional love and bring a smile to one's face with their playfulness and clownish behavior. They would be suitable for apartment dwellers, weighing between 1 to 3 lbs. and sleeping most of the day. Being a ferret owner for 15+ years and an advocate for their welfare it is important to keep some things in mind. (1) To prevent impulse buying, don't allow the purchase of ferrets in pet stores. Instead, have prospective owners adopt from rescue/humane organizations where they can be provided with the proper education and be screened for suitability. (2) Spaying and neutering are important for the health of the ferret and to prevent overpopulation. (3) Rabies vaccines and Distemper vaccines (when they become available).
Agency: DOHMH

Article 161/Ferrets

2015 JAN 16 PM 3:50

Date: 1-15-2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

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Thank you.

Signature: Deb Hogan

Printed Name: Deb Hogan

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: KERA75@aol.com
WORK - 732-417-3236

Additional comments (if any)

Domestic Ferrets are a short term pet their life span is short. The are great pets for thoughts who understand them or who want to learn about them. They are great for apt owners and home owners once you ferret proof everything . They are funny little ones and help to distress one after a hard day at work. One should only be allowed to adopted a ferret by a shelter or humane society. There are many homeless ones I have been adopting them since 1988 ...either the husband passed away and the wife did not know how to handle them, Kid went off to college, a couple was divorced and one lady moved to California and did not want to put her ferret down because they are illegal there and drove an hour from PA to NJ to bring me her....she was a joy for the 5 yrs I had her. I don't think the pet stores should sell ferrets they are a retail stores they stock merchandise and sell it and replace it. If not given the proper information to one who purchases a ferret it might be let go on the streets and they can not fend for them selves. Then you will have an issue with more homeless animals and people may think there are long skinny rats running around the city. If you have to allow pet stores to sell them a provision should be made that the pet store has to take the pet back and make it know to the purchaser they will take it back at no fee and find a new home for it. As you can tell I can go on...thank you for your time.

2015 JAN 16 PM 3:50

Date: 1-16-15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

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Thank you.

Signature: Jen Arpin

Printed Name: Jennifer Arpin

Address (optional): _____

E-mail or Telephone: Animal.Shelter@WarwickRI.com

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN 16 PM 3:50

Date: 1-16-15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

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Thank you.

Signature: Denise Argin

Printed Name: Denise Argin

Address (optional): _____

E-mail or Telephone: 401-732-0075

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN 16 PM 3:50

Date: 1-16-15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

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Thank you.

Signature: Deborah A. Niosi

Printed Name: Deborah A. Niosi

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: animal.shelter@warwickRI.com

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN 16 PM 2:51

Date: 1/16/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

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Thank you.

Signature: Ann Corvin

Printed Name: Ann Corvin

Address (optional): _____

E-mail or Telephone: animal.shelter@warwickRI.com

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1-16-15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

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Thank you.

Signature: Paul J. Napolitano

Printed Name: Paul Napolitano

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: animal.shelter@warwickRI.com

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1/15/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York Ci and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

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Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society o ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Signature: Samantha Perrotta

Printed Name: Samantha Perrotta

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: Sperrotta0508@gmail.com

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1/15/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

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Thank you.

Signature: [illegible]

Printed Name: Marie Tower

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: [illegible]@verizon.net

Additional comments (If any)

Go Ferrets! Go!

Date: 1/14/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

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Thank you.

Signature: [illegible]

Printed Name: Kayla Verdecchia

Address (optional): —

E-mail or Telephone: [redacted] kayla.verdecchia@yahoo.com

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN 16 PM 4:05

Date: 1/16/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

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Thank you.

Signature: Frances Dyer CVT

Printed Name: FRANCES DYER CVT

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: dennydyer-bill@gmail.com

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN 16 PM 4:02

Date: January 16, 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

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Thank you.

Signature: Lauren N B

Printed Name: Lauren N. Bernard

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: 413-313-3633
blindjane@gmail.com

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN 16 PM 4:02

Date: 1/15/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

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Thank you.

Signature:

Printed Name: Amy Croteau CVT

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: amycroteau@gmail.com

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1/14/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs.

Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Signature: Kristina S Gomes

Printed Name: Kristina S. Gomes

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: 401-390-1819
Kristinasweg@gmail.com

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1/15/16

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Cynthia Mackenzie

Printed Name: Cynthia Mackenzie

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: [illegible]

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1/16/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Amy R Ford

Printed Name: Amy R. Ford

Address (optional): 10 Weeks Rd. P.O. Box 355 Eastford CT 06

E-mail or Telephone: fordamy324@yahoo.com

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1/15/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

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ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Signature: Penny L Silvia ACO

Printed Name: Penny L Silvia ACO

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: Wolfwalker70@aol.com

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1/15/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: [signature]

Printed Name: Ashley Tatarian

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: Ashleytatarian@yahoo.com

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1-15-15

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Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Evelyn Mackenzie

Printed Name: EVELYN MACKENZIE

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: 401-739-3939

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1/14/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Shelby Kowal

Printed Name: Shelby Kowal

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: Shelby.Kowal@gmail.com

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1/15/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
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Thank you.

Signature: Courtney Gonsalves

Printed Name: Courtney Gonsalves

Address (optional): 45 Catherine St Bristol RI 02809

E-mail or Telephone: Courtney4911@gmail.com

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1/16/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Dolores MacKenzie

Printed Name: Dolores MacKenzie

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: dolores.m2@cox.net

Additional comments (if any)

DOH
RE

20 20 PM 3:06

Date: 1-11-15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: L J Woodward

Printed Name: LJ WOODWARD

Address (optional): 336 Meadow DR, Johnstown PA 15905

E-mail or Telephone: (814) 262-8952

2015 JAN 20 PM

Date: Jan. 12, 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

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Thank you.

Signature: Karen Laurnoff

Printed Name: Karen Laurnoff

Address (optional): 6041 NW 116th Place Alachua FL. 32615

E-mail or Telephone: 386-462-4362

Additional comments (if any)

I have had Ferrets for over 15 years.
They are the most sweetest & Loving pets.

2015 JAN 20 11:08

Date: Jan 11 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: [signature]

Printed Name: Jennifer Skyla Fay

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: JFAY@NESA.EDU

Additional comments (if any)

NOT allowing ferrets to be sold in stores not only discourages impulse buying but ~~ensures~~ forces a person wishing to get one to devote at least a small effort to search out how to get one. This may lead to only more dedicated, committed individuals owning ferrets and prevent an explosion of ferrets going to shelters. Anyone wishing to breed or sell ferrets ought to be registered, licensed + regulated to ensure animal welfare standards.

Date: Jan 12, 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
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Thank you.

Signature: Fran Piper

Printed Name: FRAN PIPER

Address (optional): Florence, Ky

E-mail or Telephone: matchmeare@yahoo.com

Additional comments (if any)

As a ferret owner for more than 26 years I see no reason not to support the above amendment to allow ferrets in NYC and mandatory rabies vaccine. Unfortunately, they have no homes [illegible] sold in [illegible] shelter [illegible]

[illegible]

Date: 1-12-15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
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Thank you.

Signature: Victor DiChristopher Jr

Printed Name: Victor DiChristopher, Jr.

Address (optional): 130 Wales St Cranston RI 02920

E-mail or Telephone:

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1/12/2015

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Thank you.

Signature: Jeanne Mazenis

Printed Name: Jeanne Mazenis

Address (optional): 1037 Charlela Ln #212 Elk Grove Vlg, IL 60007

E-mail or Telephone: JMazenis13@aol.com

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1/12/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
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Thank you.

Signature: Rebecca Prince

Printed Name: Rebecca Prince

Address (optional): _____

E-mail or Telephone: rebprince@hotmail.com

Additional comments (if any)

Date: January 11, 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: [illegible]

Printed Name: Tammy L. Baxter

Address (optional): _____

E-mail or Telephone: 717-248-0598

Additional comments (if any)

Date: Jan-15-2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
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Thank you.

Signature: Janet K. Koontz

Printed Name: Janet K. Koontz

Address (optional): _____

E-mail or Telephone: 319-480-9763

Additional comments (if any) I love ferrets and have had them in my life for at least 25 years always with my children and grandchildren.

Thank You
Janet K. Koontz

From:	Luci Herrick
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Ferrets In NYC
Date:	Thursday, January 15, 2015 7:10:10 PM

It is my opinion that ferrets should be removed from the list of animals prohibited as pets in the City of New York. I think that ferret ownership be legalized. I agree that there should be conditions placed on the ownership of ferret such as those listed below:

- Be immunized against rabies in accordance with Health Code §11.29
- Be sterilized to prevent their reproduction, and
- Be restrained when outdoors.

Although I find requiring sterilization could be a regulatory overstep if this is not also required of other pets, such as cats and dogs. I think there should be an exemption for ferret breeders and for ferrets that participate in competitions. I will always spay and neuter my pets but I am not a breeder or competitor.

Another note about sterilization, this would not have an impact on ferret odor. To have the desired effect the regulation would need to require removal of anal glands. The majority of pet store ferrets are sold fixed and de-scented.

I am pleased to find that NYC is moving forward with this change.

Luci Snowden

From:	Rideout, Lucinda
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Support Article 161
Date:	Friday, January 16, 2015 12:35:51 PM

Hello,
We are a small animal rescue in Virginia. We rescue ferrets and other rodents. It has come to our attention that New York is considering allowing rescinding the ban on ferrets. I agree, the city should. The city should ban the sale of ferrets within the city, but allow the ownership of ferrets by responsible people.

Ferrets are wonderful pets. I have owned ferrets for many years and find them to be clean, healthy, and equal to a dog or cat in every way.

Thank you for reading,

Lucinda Rideout, President
Saint Nicholas Mouse Rescue

From:	Anita Bell
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Proposed article 161/Ferrets
Date:	Saturday, January 17, 2015 12:24:12 AM

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. I have had ferrets for 15 years. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs.

Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, usually do not know anything about ferrets and they do not properly educate customers when they sell them. I do not think they should be sold in stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt one from a humane society or a ferret shelter/rescue where they know a lot more about them and they teach people the proper way to care for them.

Thank you for your time.

Anita M. Bell
27695 Tracy #540
Walbridge, Ohio 43465
(419) 346-3150

From:	Ostasiewski, Kathleen
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	remove ban on ferrets
Date:	Saturday, January 17, 2015 1:31:58 PM

Please allow spayed/neutered ferrets in NYC. I also strongly recommend that ferrets not be sold in pet stores to avoid fad, impulse purchases and subsequent abandonment. I have owned a total of 5 ferrets (consecutively), when I was in CT, and I believe if they are trained when babies and are cared for and handled they are better pets than cats or dogs. Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion.

Kate Ostasiewski

Kathleen V. Ostasiewski - *Associate Director*

Public Company Accounting Oversight Board

1251 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10020

office: 646-437-5142
ostasiewskik@pcaobus.org

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From:	Tara Smith
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Ferrets
Date:	Saturday, January 17, 2015 4:15:31 PM
Attachments:	2013-02-12 2013-05-28

I'm probably what most people would consider a "new" ferret owner. (I've only worked with and owned ferrets for five years.) But these curious, energetic, little clowns have stolen my heart.

It's hard to have a bad day with these little guys around. Watching them run, tumble, bounce and wrestle with each other or a toy, can bring a smile to even the grumpiest face.

When people ask why I like ferrets so much, this is what I tell them.

Besides being cute and cuddly, Ferrets are:

1) great apartment pets. They are small -- rarely larger than 26 inches and 5 pounds -- quiet, and easy to train. Like cats, ferrets can use a litter box and groom themselves. There is seldom need for a bath.

2) very intelligent and easy to train. They can learn commands such as " come" ,"follow" , "let's go" . Tricks like "roll-over"," beg" , " jump " (through a hoop), " tunnel" and "weave" (winding through poles) can be mastered with a few treats. My little LeiDee Bug has mastered several tricks and enjoys entertaining people.

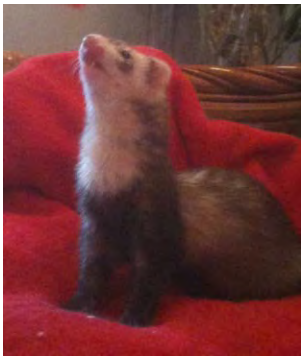
3) can be trained as therapy pets.Ferrets are very social and love attention. I'll never forget the looks on peoples faces when my boy Vlad walks into a room. Eyes light up, faces glow with smiles, conversations start. Even the hardest faces soften when they cuddle him.

4) keep you young -- in spirit at least. They are bubbly little animals full of energy. Their natural curiosity makes you see adventures in everyday things.

5) tend to get along well with cats and dogs.

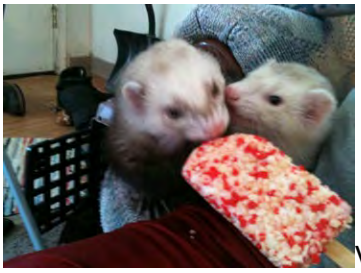
I can't imagine my life without these fur-babies.

TaraSmith


LeiDee Bug

Gunny

Jethro with Breena the dog


Vlad and Jethro

From: Suzanne Hange
To: Resolution Comments
Subject: Ferret ban
Date: Saturday, January 17, 2015 4:20:30 PM

January 17, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the proposed repeal of the New York City ban on ferrets as companion animals. I am a veterinarian in the area and I fully support the legalization of ferrets for ownership, but not for sale in pet stores.

The vast majority of ferrets in the United States today are bred at a facility called Marshall Farms where they are spayed or neutered prior to distribution. They also are bred extensively to have friendly personalities and to be exceptionally tame. As a result, domestic ferrets are often described as being a cross between a puppy and kitten- a very playful, friendly animal that is also independent and highly suited to life in an urban environment. As they all are spayed and neutered prior to sale, there is no risk of formation of a feral ferret population.

Opponents of ferret ownership have often cited the risk to public health as a reason to maintain the ban. Domestic ferrets are far less dangerous than cats and dogs. They are certainly no more prone to biting, and in my experience working with them, are dramatically LESS prone to biting.

Rabies transmission is another frequently cited argument against ferret legalization. Ferrets, just like any mammal, can potentially become infected with the rabies virus, however very effective vaccines for ferrets exist. Additionally, there are absolutely no reports of a human ever contracting rabies from a ferret, even before the commercial vaccine was available.

Ferrets are wonderful pets that are easy to care for and greatly improve the quality of life of the people who own them. There is absolutely no legitimate reason for them to have a different legal status than cats or dogs. As with cats and dogs, sale in commercial pet stores of these animals should be prohibited as this promotes impulse-purchasing of an animal that is a 5-7 year commitment, and often ends up in the overwhelming of shelters.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this topic that means so much to the animal-owning community of New York City.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Hange, VMD

From: jean samu
To: Resolution Comments
Subject: ANIMALS ARTICLE 161
Date: Saturday, January 17, 2015 9:24:26 PM

I FULLY SUPPORT TO HAVE FERRETS LEGAL IN NYC. I DON,T WANT NYC TO ALLOW SALE OF FERRETS IN NYC PET SHOPS. I HAVE HAD MANY , MANY FERRETS IN MY LIFE FOR A LITTLE OVER 20 YEARS. THEY WERE MY BABIES. I ENJOYED TAKING CARE OF THEM, MANY OF THEM I ADOPTED FROM PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY COULDN,T KEEP THEM ANYMORE FOR DIFFERENT REASONS. THEY WERE WELL TAKEN CARE OF. THEY BROUGHT ME A LOT OF JOY AND LOVE. MANY A TIMES WHEN I FELT DEPRESSED THEY WOULD LIFT ME UP WITH THEIR LOVE AND THEIR PLAYFULNESS. THEY WERE VERY GENTLE AND NEVER BIT ANYONE. THEY WOULD LOVE TO BE HUGGED AND THEY WOULD GIVE KISSES LOVE BACK. THEY WOULD FALL ASLEEP IN MY LAP OR ARMS BECAUSE THEY FELT SO COMFORTABLE AND LOVED. THEY ARE VERY QUITE, ONLY MAKING VERY SLIGHT NOISES. I LOVE DOGS AND CATS ALSO BUT THE FERRETS DON,T MAKE NOISE,SO THEY ARE REALLY NICE FOR SOMEONE LIVING IN AN APARTMENT. WHEN I WAS VER SICK MY NEICE TOOK CARE OF THEM AND HER SON-IN-LAW ALSO AND THEY HAD NO PROBLEMS WITH THEM. THEY NEVER TRIED TO BITE AND WERE VERY LOVING TOWARDS THEM. IF I DIDN,T HAVE HEALTH PROBLEMS AND BECAUSE OF MY AGE I WOULD STILL HAVE FERRETS IN MY LIFE . I MISS HAVING THEM SO VERY MUCH ,THEY WERE THE JOY OF MY LIFE. BECAUSE I LOVE FERRETS SO MUCH I STILL BELONG TO MY FERRET CLUB AND SUPPORT THEM (FACT,INC) AND THE AFA FERRET INC. BECAUSE I STILL WANT TO HAVE THEM IN MY LIFE SOME HOW. PLEASE PASS THE BILL SO FERRETS CAN BE LEGAL IN NYC. PLEASE PASS ANIMALS ARTICLE 161 FOR FERRETS IN NYC. THANK YOU. A FERRET LOVER IN NJ. J. SAMU

From:	Kathmshea@aol.com
To:	Resolution Comments
Cc:	kathmshea@aol.com
Subject:	Ferret Legalization in NYC
Date:	Sunday, January 18, 2015 12:26:16 AM

Greetings!

I would like to wholeheartedly support the legalization of ferrets in NYC!

And, though I know reside in Glendale, AZ (with my family and four ferrets!), I am a former NY-er, and lived within NYC limits for several years while attending college (I have a Bachelors degree from Fashion Institute of Technology, and a Law Degree from St. John's University in Queens). Please know that, while living in various apartments in Queens, I owned several ferrets. While they were not, technically, "legal" pets, they are perfect -- PERFECT -- for apartment living! They are as inquisitive and fun as kittens, but they are only awake for about four hours a day, so they sleep (usually in cages) the rest of the time. They don't have to go out (in fact, if they are not supervised, the outdoors can be quite dangerous for them - it would not be possible for a ferret to survive outside by itself), and they are easy to feed and keep clean.

The only big downside to ferrets is that they are subject to many diseases, and really need good veterinary care.

Obviously, making ferrets LEGAL in NYC will make it much easier for ferret owners already living there to get their ferrets to a vet!

Thank you for considering the legalization of ferrets in NYC - I urge you to pass this legislation!

Kathleen Shea

From:	Remona Rhooms
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Ferrets
Date:	Sunday, January 18, 2015 10:13:07 AM

Hello,

I am a licensed veterinarian in NYS. There is no reason for ferrets to be illegal. They are small and quiet which is perfect for apartment living. There is a musky odor but this is greatly reduced by neutering (at 6 months to decrease adrenal disease) and daily cleaning. In regards to biting, they are no more dangerous than dogs and cats. They should be trained at an early age to not bite, and therefore, are safe around children. They are intelligent animals, with the ability to perform "tricks", answer to their name, can open cabinets/doors (much to their owners dismay), and litter trainable. They sleep most of the day, making them a good alternative to owners who are away most of the day but still want a pet they can interact with. This may indirectly decrease owners buying dogs they don't have time for.

Ferrets should be legalized again, but should not be sold in pet stores, with mandatory neutering requirement to prevent the overflow of unwanted ferrets as we are now seeing with rabbits. There is a FDA approved ferret vaccination. Unfortunately, the vaccination for distemper is no longer available but there are suitable alternatives.

Thank you,
Dr. Rhooms

From:	ferret.erin
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Re:Animals(Article (161)& Reportable Diseases and Conditions(Aricle 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets
Date:	Sunday, January 18, 2015 6:53:04 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs.

Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them.

Erin M. Collins
3317 e Tower Dr.
Cottonwood, Az. 86326
ferret.erin@outlook.com

Additional comments: I personally have owned ferrets for over 15 years. I currently own 5 of these wonderful animals. The first 3 that I have owned did come from a pet store, I did buy several books on them to know and understand their needs first. Since then the dozens of ferrets that i have owned have come from people who have decided to get rid of their animals (for many different reasons), shelters and humane societies. I prefer to get my ferrets this way and give them a loving forever home where they will always be loved. Thank you for your time. Erin Collins

Sent from Samsung tablet

From:	Tracy McAlpine
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets
Date:	Sunday, January 18, 2015 10:00:54 PM

I support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.
I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs.
Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Sincerely,
Tracy McAlpine

From:	Tony Kahn
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Ferret ban repeal
Date:	Tuesday, January 20, 2015 11:49:59 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of repealing the ban on pet ferret ownership in NYC under the pretense that they are wild animals. Domesticated ferrets have never lived in the wild in North America, and are poorly adapted to survival (significantly less so than other, legal, domestic animals such as cats and dogs). Nationally, they have been shown to carry low risk of propagating disease and do not serve as a natural reservoir for any zoonotic diseases. They are no more dangerous to individuals or communities than are people or other pets. Sterilization is also recommended for all companion animals to minimize the sundry effects of overpopulation.

Thank you,

Dr. S. Anthony Kahn

Specialist Veterinary Surgeon

--

From:	Steve Gruber
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Comments for DOH Hearing re: Article 161 of the New York City Code, Jan. 21, 2015
Date:	Tuesday, January 20, 2015 2:26:17 PM
Attachments:	Alliance Comments on Ferrets Jan. 21, 2015 SG012015.docx

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Good afternoon,

I' have attached a draft of my comments which I will deliver at the DOH hearing on Jan 21, 2015, concerning Article 161 changes - Ferrets.

Should I bring printed copies with me to the hearing? If so, how many copies are needed?

Thank you.

--

Steve Gruber
Director of Communications
Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals®
244 Fifth Avenue, Suite R290
New York, NY 10001
phone: 917-359-6003
e-mail: Steve@animalalliancenyc.org
website: AnimalAllianceNYC.org

ADOPT A LITTLE NEW YORKER TODAY!®

Steve Gruber, Director of Communications
Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals

Department of Health Hearing re: Article 161 of the New York City Code
Jan. 21, 2015; 2:00-4:00 p.m.
NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street, 3rd floor, Room 3-32, Long Island City, NY 11101

Good afternoon. My name is Steve Gruber. I'm the Director of Communications for the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals. Members of the Board of Health, thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to Article 161 of the New York City Health Code.

The Alliance is a non-profit charity and the sole umbrella organization for animal welfare in NYC. Since 2003, we have been working with our coalition of 150-plus rescue groups and shelters, including Animal Care & Control of NYC, to find homes for thousands of New York City's dogs and cats. Our goal is to transform New York City into a community where no dogs or cats of reasonable health or temperament are killed simply because they do not have homes.

While we work collaboratively with the City of New York, we are a 501(c)(3) charity and do not receive any government funding, nor are we a city agency.

The Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals supports the changes to Article 161 of the New York City Code proposed by the New York City Department of Health that would permit ferrets as pets in New York City. We believe that ferrets can make excellent pets when cared for by individuals who have been educated about the proper care of ferrets.

We also agree with the requirements set forth in the proposed amendment – that ferrets be vaccinated against rabies, and that they be spayed or neutered at an age that is safe for the ferrets, and not at an age established for the convenience of ferret breeders.

Our mantra is "adopt, don't buy." This also applies to ferrets. We therefore recommend that, if it falls within the purview of the Department of Health, that DOH influence the prohibition of the sale of ferrets in pet stores, just as recent legislation passed by the New York City Council bans the sale of rabbits by pet stores. Prohibiting the sale of ferrets helps prevent them from being bred in mills similar to puppy mills, only to wind up in shelters or bought by people who are not educated about their proper care.

Thank you.

From:	Edita Birnkrant
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Comments for Proposal to lift Ferret Ban--Friends of Animals" Comments
Date:	Tuesday, January 20, 2015 2:53:24 PM

Dear Commissioner Mary Travis Bassett,

Please review Friends of Animals' comments in regards to the Proposed resolution to amend Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) of the New York City Health Code .

In regards to the proposal for the Board of Health to lift the ban of ownership and sale of ferrets as pets in New York City, Friends of Animals strongly opposes lifting the ban, as lifting the ban would mean that ferrets would then be widely sold in pet shops.

Friends of Animals, an international animal advocacy organization founded in 1957 in New York, is a leader in the movement to end the homeless pet problem, which is the cause of millions of healthy pets being euthanized, languishing in shelters or living risky lives on the streets. We operate the country's first and longest running, nationwide, low-cost spay neuter program, and to date we've facilitated over 2.6 million spay neuter surgeries. Since 1957 we've educated the public about responsible pet ownership.

There is progress being made in New York City in regards to the issues affecting pets that already are legal—dogs, cats, rabbits, etc, but there is still much work to be done. There are still so many unwanted pets in city shelters that are currently legal—adding another species to the mix that has been banned for decades is misguided and would have disastrous consequences. We were very glad that legislation recently passed in the City Council that prohibits the commercial sale of rabbits in pet stores. However, lifting the ban on ownership of ferrets would create the exact problems that led to the need to ban the sale of rabbits in pet stores. The last thing we should be doing is creating another market for irresponsible breeders. Allowing the sale of ferrets means creating a new market for these breeders, and that means there will be large numbers of "surplus" ferrets that will likely be dumped in shelters or on the streets. This is the wrong thing to do, just as we're making some real progress with all the issues that lead to the pet overpopulation problem.

In closing, Friends of Animals strongly opposes lifting the ban of ownership and sale of ferrets in New York City. To lift this ban is to guarantee creating a host of problems with surplus numbers of ferrets being introduced into New York City, at a time when dogs, cats and rabbits are still being euthanized in city shelters for lack of adoption homes.

Sincerely,

Edita Birnkrant
Campaigns Director

~~EXPLOITERS~~
FRIENDS
of ANIMALS

1841 Broadway, Suite 350
New York, NY 10023

Phone: 212.247.8120
Fax: 212.582.4482
E-mail: edita@friendsofanimals.org

Website: www.friendsofanimals.org

From:	F Hoffman
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Comments re: Notice of Public Health - Amendments to Article 11 and 161 [21Jan15]
Date:	Tuesday, January 20, 2015 4:55:33 PM
Attachments:	COMMENTS - NYC Hearing Public Health (Ferrets) 21Feb15 FH KC.pdf
Importance:	High
Sensitivity:	Confidential

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Notice of Public Hearing and Opportunity to Comment on Proposed Amendments to Articles 11 and 161 of the New York City Health Code: Hearing on January 21, 2015

Attached please find COMMENTS, also submitted in hardcopy by Priority Express Mail (USPS) to arrive tomorrow.

Regards,

F. A. Hoffman, MD

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RE: Notice of Public Hearing and Opportunity to Comment on Proposed Amendments to Articles 11 and 161 of the New York City Health Code

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

TO THE DOCKET:

Please accept our comments, in response to the **Opportunity to Comment on Proposed Amendments to Articles 11 and 161 of the New York City Health Code in advance of the Public Hearing scheduled for January 21, 2015.**

Based on the Notice is our understanding that the City proposes the following amendments to *Health Code §§161.01(b)(4)—Prohibited Animals,* which would remove the current prohibition on keeping domestic ferrets as pets in the City, with the following requirements:

- Be immunized against rabies in accordance with Health Code §11.29;
- Be sterilized to prevent their reproduction, and
- Be restrained when outdoors.

Pursuant to this request, we are providing commentary on issues concerning domestic ferrets (*Mustela putorius furo*), with an emphasis on those issues that have particular public health impact, as represented in the Contents (page 2). While we do not represent that the information presented herein is exhaustive, it should, however, provide a clear basis for understanding the role ferrets play in people's lives, their characteristics, and the relative risk to ferret ownership, when compared to dogs and cats—animals that are currently legal to own in New York City.

Respectfully yours,

CAPT F. A. Hoffman, M.D. - United States Public Health Service [Retired]
Policy Analyst and Consultant – Washington, DC

K. Czubaruk, Esq.
Policy Analyst and Consultant – Leesburg, VA

5611 16th Street NW
Washington, DC 20011

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Benefits of Companion Animals

According to the American Pet Products Association (APPA) National Pet Owners 2013-2014 Survey, 68% of U.S. households own a pet, which equates to 82.5 million homes. Approximately 6.9 million households reported owning 18.1 million "small animals" that may have included a ferret. The data are shown in **Table 1**. [APPA - Accessed Jan 2015)] In another survey of the rental market, approximately 50% rental units reported owning fish or some type of companion animal, or ―pocket pet," of which ferrets would be included. [Hart – 1994]

Table 1: Companion Animals Owned by United States Households

Animal	# US Households (millions)	# Pets (millions)
Dog	56.7	83.3
Cat	45.3	95.6
Small Animal*	6.9	18.1

* Not a house, fish, reptile or bird.
[From: APPA 2013-2014 Survey]

Pet owners report benefits of companion animal ownership that include: companionship, love, company, and affection. [APPA Survey; Beck-1996] Many owners described their pets as ―family members". [American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA – [Accessed Jan 2015]; Beck -1996] Owners report that their pets help them to relieve stress and are good for their

health and the health of other human family members, perceptions which are now being supported by an increasing number of studies. For example, research shows that physical contact with companion animals has a calming effect on people, which in some studies resulted in reductions in blood pressure of people in the presence of companion animals. In another study those individuals with companion animals had on lower mean cholesterol and triglycerides levels. [APPA, AVMA, Wilson-1994]

A significant number of pet owners responded that pets have a positive impact on children, that they are good for children or teach children responsibility. Studies focusing on the impact of companion animals on children showed that pet ownership ―provides long-term mental and emotional benefits for children and adolescents." [Melson-2001]

A growing number of people claim that their companion animals act as ―emotional support" animals, and companion animals are now being used to treat some types of mental conditions. Unlike traditional service animals which assist individuals in performing physical tasks, the simple interaction with and presence of a companion animal have been shown to result in psychological benefits to humans. A study of male pet owners with depression who were at risk for developing AIDS concluded that ―pets have a salutary effect on the mental health of men with AIDS." Other studies showed that pet ownership provides important mental and emotional benefits for adults even in the absence of any specific psychiatric condition. [Melson-2001; Tufts – accessed Jan 2015; Wilson – 1998]

Ferrets are Domestic Animals

The pet ferret is a domestic species belonging to the Order Carnivora, of which the domestic dog (*Canis lupis familiaris),* and the domestic cat *(Felis silvestris catus)* are also members. It is the only domesticated member of the Genus Mustelidae (from Latin *mustela*, weasel), which encompasses a diverse group of mammals such as otters, badgers, martens, fishers, minks, wolverines and weasels. [ITIS- (Accessed Jan 2015)]

Current taxonomic classifications identify the domestic ferret as *Mustela putorious furo* (also: *M. furo*) a subspecies or variety of the wild European polecat, *Mustela putorius putorius (*also: *M. putorius).* The domestic ferret should not be confused with the North American black-footed ferret, *Mustela nigripes,* a separate distinct species. The black-footed ferret is a wild animal and one of the rarest North American mammals protected by the Endangered Species Act. [USFWS]

For the purposes of this letter the term ―ferret" will be used to represent only the domestic ferret.

The scientific literature is unanimous in its classification of the ferret as a domestic species. Authorities include the Smithsonian and most zoological societies. [ITIS, Personal communication to ferret organizations.] James M. Dolan, Jr. Curator of Collections at the Zoological Society of San Diego, has stated that the ferret ―is simply a domestic form of the European polecat. It does not exist as a wild animal." Dr. Fred Koonz, Curator of Mammalogy at the New York Zoological Society is in agreement, noting that the ferret has been selectively

bred for specific traits that are useful to humans. The U.S. government also considers ferrets to be a domestic species, specifically addressed by the National Institutes of Health, Food and Drug Administration, US Fish and Wildlife Service. The US Department of Agriculture confirmed this position in a response to public comments regarding the ferret's classification within the Animal Welfare Act. [See: *Federal Register*, Vol. 54, No. 49, pp. 10830, Mar. 15, 1989.]

There remain, however, a few isolated jurisdictions including the State of California, which persist in labeling the ferret a ―wild" animal. Their position represents purely a legal construct unsupported by any credible scientific source or authority. [Phillips-1990]

Ferrets, in Comparison with Dogs and Cats

In the U.S. the ferret is considered as the third most popular companion animal. The ferret is also a well-recognized laboratory species. Estimates of U.S. populations range from 7 to 10 million ferrets, although exact numbers are unknown. [AVMA, American Ferret Association, Pet Food Industry, Ferrant -2008, and others]

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) states that ―domestic ferrets have become more popular as pets in recent years and can be kept legally as pets in most states." [HSUS (Accessed Jan 2015)].

Ferrets are a dimorphic species, with adult males (―hobs") reaching 1.5 to 2 times the size of adult females (―jills), as shown in **Figure 1**. [Fox-2014]

Figure 1: Species Dimorphism: female ("jill") [L] ferret and her son ("hob") [R]

Average body length for the adult ferret is about 20 inches, and tail length around 5 inches. Typically ferrets have brown, black, white, or mixed outer coats with a white or cream undercoat. Average lifespan of the ferret is 6 to 10 years, although some have been documented to be 13 years of age and older. [Fox – 2014; American Ferret Association (AFA) - personal communication.]

Ferrets weigh in at 1 to 4 pounds (0.7 – 2 kg), which includes the fact that both sexes experience dramatic seasonal weight fluctuations of up to 40%. In the spring ferrets lose subcutaneous fat, previously acquired in during the fall. [Fox -2014]

When assessing the potential impact of ferret legalization on Public Health, it is important to take into account the relative size and habits of the three major companion animals.

Even the largest male ferret is a much smaller animal than the smallest breed of dog, the Chihuahua (at 4 to 6 pounds), and significantly smaller than the average house cat (~ 10 pounds), as shown in **Table 2.**

The respective jaw sizes, represented by ―intercanine: distance, also reflects that the relative bite that the animal can deliver, which helps to determine bite-source on forensic examination. [Ferrant-2008] A bite from a ferret is generally smaller than that of either the smallest dog or average cat.

Table 2: Weight and Intercanine Distance: Attributes of dogs, cats, and ferrets

Attribute	Dog	Cat	Ferret
Weight (in pounds)	Chihuahua: 4 to 6 lb[A] Iris wolfhound: M: 120 lb F: 105 lb	8.8 - 11.0 lb[B] Maine Coon cat: up to 25 lb	1 to 4 lb[C] M: 2 to 4 lb F: 1 to 2.5 lb
Intercanine distance[D]	2.0-4.8 cm	0.9 – 2.2 cm	0.7 – 1.4 cm

A: Varies with breed http://www.petcarerx.com/article/dog-breed-weight-chart/267
B: Varies with breed; Mattern – 2000
C: American Ferret Association (www.ferret.org); Fox -2014.
D: Murmann - 2006

Figure 2 shows the relative size of a housecat, small-breed dog (Chihuahua), and adult ferret.

Figure 3 demonstrates the relative size of what appears to be an adult male ferret in a ―winter" coat and a large-breed dog (German Shepard).

Figure 2: Domestic cat, dog (Chihuahua), ferret

[Photo: ―Ferret, dog and cat" www.pinterest.com]

Figure 3: Dog and Ferret on being walked on leash.

[Photo: Timothy Redaelli: ―Leashed dog and ferret" www.flickr.com]

As described in the Hearing Notice, ferrets are known for their ―musky" odor. While not objectionable to most ferret owners, the odor is significantly enhanced during mating season in ―whole" (unneutered) ferrets by sex hormones, and amplified further by male urine marking, as well as the occasional release of ―scent" from anal scent glands. [Fox-2014]

So it should come as no surprise that the majority ferrets sold as pets in the U.S. are both neutered and ―descented" (surgical removal of the anal scent glands) prior to sale to the public. [Fox -2014, AFA, HSUS, etc.]

A more pressing medical reason for sterilizing female ferrets, however, is to prevent a condition called aplastic anemia. The female sex hormones released during prolonged estrus can suppress the bone marrow, which can result in severe anemia, infection, and bleeding, which carries a high (40%) mortality rate. [Gorham-1985; Fox-2014]

United States Animal Bites Statistics

Bites cause puncture wounds, cuts, scrapes, or crushing injuries. Animal bites and scratches to humans can also result in the transmission of diseases, along with well-described consequences. Most animal bites to humans result in minor injuries, and home treatment is usually all that is needed to care for the wound. However, more serious bite wounds can require sutures, parenteral antibiotics, and in some cases, reconstructive surgery. [American Society of Plastic Surgeons – 2012; Gurunluoglu -2014]

Dogs are the most common animal to bite humans, accounting for nearly 5 million dog bites annually in the U.S. [CDC] Due to their extreme frequency, dog bites generally do not make the evening ―news." Dog bites to humans occur most frequently during warm weather months when people and dogs interface outdoors. Humans are most often bitten by dogs that know, frequently the family pet, which often result from the dog being teased or bothered while eating or sleeping. Approximately twice as many boys, than girls, are bitten by dogs. The arms, head, and neck are the most likely areas to be bitten in children. In one review, the death rate of neonates was 370 times that of adults 30-49 years of age. [Pinckney -1982, Sachs -1989, Overall -2001, Langley -2009]

Cat bites usually result in much deeper puncture wounds than dog bites and carrier a much higher risk of bacterial infection, because they are often harder to clean adequately. More women than men are the target of cat bites, as cats are more often owned and handled by women. [Oehler -2009]

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) describes the U.S. statistics for dog bites:

- About 4.5 million people are bitten by dogs each year. [Gilchrist -2008]
- Almost one in five of those who are bitten, about 885,000, require medical attention for dog bite-related injuries; half of these are children. [Gilchrist-2008]

- In 2012, more than 27,000 people underwent reconstructive surgery as a result of being bitten by dogs.[ASPS – 2012]
- Among children, the rate of dog bite–related injuries is highest for those ages 5 to 9 years, and children are more likely than adults to receive medical attention for dog bites. [CDC-2001]
- Male adults are more likely than female adults to be bitten.[Gilchrist-2008]
- Among children and adults, having a dog in the household is associated with a higher incidence of dog bites. As the number of dogs in the home increases, so does the incidence of dog bites. Adults with two or more dogs in the household are five times more likely to be bitten than those living without dogs at home. [Gilchrist-2008]

[From: CDC http://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Dog-Bites/index.html, (Accessed Jan 2015)]

The AVMA provides additional sobering statistics on the dog-bite problem:

"With an estimated population of 70 million dogs living in U.S. households, millions of people – most of them children – are bitten by dogs every year. The majority of these bites, if not all, are preventable.

- *Prevent The Bite* reports that according to the Center for Disease Control, dog bites were the 11th leading cause of nonfatal injury to children ages 1-4, 9th for ages 5-9 and 10th for ages 10-14 from 2003-2012.
- The Insurance Information Institute estimates that in 2013, insurers across the country paid over $483 million in dog bite claims.
- The American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery reports that according to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, 26,935 reconstructive procedures were performed in 2013 to repair injuries caused by dog bites.
- The U.S. Postal Service reports that 5,581 postal employees were attacked by dogs in 2013. Children, elderly, and postal carriers are the most frequent victims of dog bites.
- The American Humane Association reports that 66% of bites among children occur to the head and neck."

[From: AVMA - https://www.avma.org/Events/pethealth/Pages/Dog-Bite-Prevention-Week.aspx ; (Accessed Jan 2015)]

New York City Animal Bite Statistics

Statistics collected by New York City reflect the national data, confirming that dogs are the major source of animal bites to humans. Based on NYC data dogs are the offenders in more than 70% of reported animal to human incidents, whereas cats represent the second most common source at around 13%, as shown in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Reported Bites to Humans in New York City Bites

Reporting Year	Dogs (%)	Cats (%)	Rats/ Mice (%)	Other animals (%)	Ferrets (%)	Comments Citation
1985	9,809 (89%)	879 (8.0%)	311 (2.8%)		5 (0.045%)	Total: 11,004 NYC DOH [Search-1987]
1999	Not stated in source	Not stated in source	Not stated in source	Not stated in source	17	NYC DOH [AP Wire-2000]
2000	Not stated in source	Not stated in source	Not stated in source	Not stated in source	13	NYC DOH [AP Wire-2000]
2003	4139 (76.3)	663 (12.2)	356 (6.6)	266 (4.9)	Incl in ―Other"*	Total: 5,424 NYC DOH [Bregman-2012]
2004	4634 (73.8)	855 (13.6)	403 (6.4)	388 (6.2)	Incl in ―Other"*	Total: 6,280 NYC DOH [Bregman-2012]
2005	4642 (73.0)	817 (12.8)	417 (6.6)	482 (7.6)	Incl in ―Other"*	Total: 6,358 NYC DOH [Bregman-2012]
2006	4475 (71.3)	903 (14.4)	438 (7.0)	464 (7.4)	Incl in ―Other"*	Total: 6,281 NYC DOH [Bregman-2012]

* ―Other Animals" included: squirrels, raccoons, bats, hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits, monkeys, horses, ferrets and not specified.

In the study conducted by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bureau of Communicable Disease (Queens) four consecutive years of records were retrospectively reviewed from NYC ER visits, in which the chief complaint was an animal bite. [Bregman - 2012]

Approximately 9000 patients were seen daily by local ERs totaling >12 million visits and >3 million records during the period from January 1, 2003, through December 31, 2006.

Animal bites to humans constituted 24,343 patient visits for a mean of 6,085 visits per year, or 17 visits per day. Bites were categorized as caused by dogs, cats, rats and mice, or ―other animals." Bites from ferrets were included in the ―other animals", which also included raccoons, squirrels, opossums, bats, monkeys, horses, hamsters, rabbits, guinea pigs, ―animals that were not specified."

Study result are summarized in **Table 3** and described further, as follows:

- 17,891 dog bites (73.5%), with a rate of 56.2 bite visits per 100,000 population
- 3,238 cat bites (13.3%), with a rate of 10.2 bite visits per 100,000 population
- 1,614 rat and mouse bites, with rates of 5.1 bite visits per 100,000 population, which where highest among infants younger than 2 years of age (13.1 per 100,000 population) and children between 2 and 4 years of age (8.7 per 100,000 population)
- 1,600 ―Other animals": In the 659 animals specified, squirrels were the most common animal (n=287, 17.9%), followed by hamsters (n=173, 10.8%), bats (n=60, 3.8%) and raccoons (n=21, 1.3%).

Although data from ferrets was not specifically called out, it can be assumed that the number of reported bites in which an animal was specified was less for ferrets than for raccoons, which comports with results from NYC from prior monitoring years.

These authors concluded that their study was in line with prior studies of similar design in which dogs were found to be the major cause of bites to humans, causing between 70 and 80% of all animal bites seen in ERs. [Sinclair – 1995; Steele -2007, MacBean -2007]

Animal Behavior and Aggression

More than a decade ago former NYC Mayor, Rudolph Giuliani was quoted as saying that he ―believes ferrets are much more prone to attack small children and carry rabies and that he supports the ban." [AP Wire -2000] This concern remains an important issue to discuss in light of the City's proposed amendments.

Scientists describe the behavior of the adult domestic ferret as ―juvenile," meaning as a species the ferret has evolved considerably into one that no longer has the instincts and behavior patterns of an adult wild ferret or polecat, including hunting prey and escaping predators. Mustelids in general are not ―pack animals," as are canines. In the wild, most mustelids are generally solitary animals.

In contrast, domestic ferrets can be very social animals, enjoying the company of their owners and other ferrets. For this reason, most authorities encourage ferrets to be maintained in couples or groups, rather than alone. [AFA, and other sites]

As pets, ferrets are described by a well-known veterinary textbook as ―lively, comical animals....When a ferret is enticing a human or another ferret to play, it backs up rapidly across a room, usually chattering and hissing at the same time. Ferrets like to leap and jump when they play.... Ferrets play intensely for short periods of time and then sleep soundly for several hours." [Brown-1997]

Studies of ferret behavior suggest that familiarity, sex, and neutering status are important determinants of how ferrets interact with other animals and people. Neutered females and

sexually intact males are not indiscriminately aggressive towards other ferrets, as a neutered female can be paired with a sexually intact male without resulting in aggression. [Staton-2003] Aggression towards other ferrets when observed in an older neutered ferret is almost invariably a sign of adrenal disease, in which the adrenal gland is producing sex hormones. The condition disappears. Following treatment, which can be surgical or medical, with the administration of blocking hormones by injection or depot, the behavior disappears. [Brown -1997; Fox-2014]

With regard to humans, many of the so-called ―attacks" attributed to domestic ferrets may have been misconstrued ―play" behavior. A veterinary behaviorist describes normal ferret ―play" behavior:

> *"Play in ferrets is very aggressive and active, and is often misinterpreted by as aggression. However, there are some patterns of behavior that are common to aggression and not seen with play. These include a sustained neck bite, screaming, the defensive threat (the victim stands with an arched back, raised head and bared teeth facing the aggressor and screaming)and the sideways attack (the aggressor walks sideways towards the victim with its head turned away). In addition, the open mouthed play face, where the ferret holds its mouth wide open without retracting its lips, is only seen during play. The locomotion of ferrets at play is also unique from true aggression in that the galloping movements are more loose, bouncy and jerky. During play, ferrets also readily alternate the role of aggressor and victim. If play becomes too rough, the victim will usually attempt to escape while whining or hissing. This normally results in the attacker stopping the attack. Hissing that occurs in play, may suggest that the hissing animal is no longer truly enjoying the interaction. If the aggressing animal does not stop when the other is hissing, calm intervention and redirection by the owner at that point may be warranted so as to be certain that the play does not progress into a serious fight. Ferrets will readily engage in object play but social play often takes precedence. In fact the most likely way to induce play in a group of young ferrets is to introduce another young ferret. Certain situations predictably inhibit play in ferrets: the presence of prey, or fearful stimuli, and being placed in a novel environment."*

[Tynes – accessed Jan 2015]

Similar to puppies or kittens, young ferrets must be taught to play appropriately with their human counterparts. Recent studies have demonstrated that aggression towards humans is rarely a problem for most ferret owners. Although some ferrets use a nip to gain someone's attention, others may do so as a form of play. Once the underlying motivation for the behavior is determined, then the usual learning principles apply; the reinforcement for the behavior must be removed, the inappropriate play should be redirected to other items and rewarded and appropriate play should always be rewarded. [Tynes - accessed Jan 2015]

Domestic ferrets respond to direction of their human owners in manner similar to domestic dogs. In a recent study, it was found that in contrast to wild mustela hybrids, both domestic ferrets and dogs tolerated eye-contact for a longer time when facing their owners versus the experimenter and they showed a preference in a two-way choice task towards their owners.

Furthermore, domestic ferrets, unlike the wild hybrids, were able to follow human directional gestures (sustained touching; momentary pointing) and could reach the success rate of dogs. These findings support the hypothesis that domestic species may share basic socio-cognitive skills that enable them to engage in effectively orchestrated social interactions with humans. [Hemadi -2012]

In contrast to ferrets, dog and cat aggression towards humans is a very important public health concern, and has been described as one of the most important problems facing veterinary medicine and public health today. [AVMA; CDC, ASPCA]

Canine aggression, particularly towards humans, is one of the most frequent problems encountered in veterinary behavioral medicine. Aggressive behavior in dogs is so common, it has been considered within the range of ―normal." Aggression in dogs ―typically includes the kinds of behaviors we associate with threat or attack, such as barking, growling, and biting." [VetStreet- (Accessed Jan 2015)]. However, severe cases can result in relinquishment or euthanasia of the dog. [Arata-2014]

Reasons given for aggression in dogs are: dominance, fear, interdog, maternal, pain, play, predatory, protective, redirected, and territorial. [IArata-2014, AVMA] Concern is only raised when some dogs display ―increasingly intense versions of this normal behavior". The authors continue:

> ―This typically progressive manifestation of aggression in dogs can be dangerous to humans, other dogs, and other animals that may share the same household. In these cases, the aggression may be treated as a disease and, as such, is often cited as a common cause of death in dogs since relinquishment to shelters (and subsequent euthanasia) is a common sequela of the aberrant forms of this behavior. Severe forms of canine aggression may have a hereditary component, as with the disease colloquially referred to as ―rage" that afflicts certain lines of dogs. This form of aggression is considered deeply pathological and rare..." [Arata -2014]

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) reports that:

> ―Cat aggression is the second most common feline behavior problem seen by animal behaviorists. Although cat aggression is sometimes taken less seriously than dog aggression—perhaps because cats are smaller and don't pursue people to bite them like dogs can—aggressive cats can be formidable. They have five potential weapons (their teeth and all four clawed paws) compared to dogs' sole weapon: their mouth. They can inflict bites and severe lacerations, which are painful and can easily become infected. They can also cause cat scratch fever, a usually benign but potentially serious infectious disease that causes flu-like symptoms. Fights between cats rarely result in fatalities, but they can lead to infections and result in considerable veterinary expenses for cat parents. Aggressive cats can be risky to have at home and can pose a real danger to family and visitors." [ASPCA (Accessed Jan 2015)]

Ferret Bites to Humans

In contrast to dog and cat bites, reports of ferret bites to humans are a relatively rare event, which makes them highly ―newsworthy."

In the 1990's during hearings on ferret legalization, health officials often attributed the low numbers of ferret-related events to ―under-reporting:" involved individuals fearing prosecution for possession of an ―illegal" animal. However, following ferret legalization (ferrets are now legal in all states except California and Hawaii, and in most jurisdictions), no resultant increase was observed in the number of ferret-bite reports in any of the affected jurisdictions. [AFA, Great Lakes Ferret Association, Massachusetts Friends of Ferrets - personal communication]

Through the years, occasional instances of ferrets causing more severe effects have been reported. In France a 2008 case report published in the Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine describes one six-week-old infant who was referred to a local ER for facial injuries allegedly caused by the family's pet ferret. Due to incongruities in the parent's story surrounding the event, and the absence of the ferret (killed by the father in a fit of anger), a forensic examination was undertaken to determine the source of the bite.

The results of the forensic assessment in which intercanine distance was assessed, showed that the bites were mostly likely caused by a ferret. The intercanine distance in an adult ferret ranges from 0.7 – 1.4 cm, in contrast to a dog's (2.0-4.8 cm), cat's (0.9 – 2.2 cm), or human's bite. [See **Table 2**, above]. In addition, the depth of the bite wound of a ferret is fairly superficial in comparison to that of a dog or cat. [Ferrant - 2008]

The authors reported that the infants ―wounds healed properly without infection. However a loss of cutaneous and cartilaginous substance persisted." [Ferrant - 2008] Since the family had disposed of the ferret prior to the investigation, the child was started on rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). In their review of the published literature, these authors reported on six additional case reports in which a ―pet ferret" was deemed the cause of the injury. In all 7 case reports, the children were less than 60 months of age. Injuries in most cases were bites and scratches to the face, and ears. One case had injuries to hand, and another to the legs. One case required 39 sutures, three required reconstructive surgery. Antibiotics were given to 2 cases intravenously, and three, orally, with one case receive no antibiotics. Two cases received Rabies PEP, which in one case was deemed an ―incomplete" course. [Ibid.]

One thirty-year old abstract stated that ―33 cases" were reported to the State of California in which infants and young children were ―attacked by pet European ferrets." While the author attempts to distinguish the pet ferret from black-footed ferrets, he continues by saying that ―Sometimes ferrets are confused with weasels due to inability to differentiate them." [Maruese – 1987] In this brief somewhat hyperbolic report which revealed no sources or details, the author states: ―one infant died; others nearly bled to death. One lost her nose, another half of both ears. Up to hundreds of bites were rapidly inflicted on all parts of the face..." Due to the

absence of adequate information, one cannot conclude the circumstances or the veracity of these events.

In general for the overwhelming majority of cases in which a ferret was identified as the bite source, the target has been an infant or a very young child. In such cases the child was left unattended for long time periods during which the parent was either physically absent or under the influence of drugs or alcohol. In many of these cases, the parents were charged with child abuse or neglect. [Phillips -1990, Ferrant-2008] In June 2011, a Missouri couple was charged with endangering the welfare of their 4 month-old child, after a pet ferret allegedly chewed off most of their son's fingers while the parents slept. In this case the police confirmed from cell phone records that the parents were absent from the home, and charges were brought against the parents. [Murphy (Reuters)-2011]

While each individual case is tragic, the numbers and extent of injuries associated with ferret bites, pales in comparison to the sheer volume and extent of morbidity and mortality that has been documented to be inflicted on humans by both dogs and cats.

On average dogs are responsible for 31 human fatalities annually in the United States. [CDC-accessed Jan 2015] Between 2000 to 2009, 256 dog-bite-related US fatalities occurred, (25.6 per year). [CDC; Pinckney -1982, Sachs -1989, Sachs – 1996b, Langley -2009] In 2011, 32 dog-related fatalities occurred, which included not only bites, but also infectious causes and falls due to dogs. [Patronek -2013; National Canine Research Council-current website, accessed Jan 2015]

So severe is the public health impact of dog bites, the American Veterinary Medical Association maintains a website: ―Dog Bite Prevention Week", which occurs in May each year to call attention to the enormous concerns regarding dog bites to humans. [AVMA]

Zoonotic Infections

Aside from tissue injury and loss of function, zoonotic transmission from animal to human is another public health concern arising from animal bites and scratches. Human deaths have occurred from both cat-bites and cat scratches, generally secondary to infectious agents.

Table 4 provides a list of agents that have been documented to have transmitted from dogs, cats and from ferrets to humans. In the rare instance when a ferret has been listed, it is usually the first case ever reported.

Table 4: Documented Zoonotic Transmission of Infections from Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets to a Human

Infectious Disease	Dogs	Cats	Ferrets
Actinomycosis	X	X	
Ascariasis (round worm)	X	X	
Bergeyella zoohelcum	X	X	
Blastomycosis	X	X	
Borreliosis (Lyme Disease)	X		
Boutonneuse fever	X		
Brucellosis	X		
Campylobacter enteritis	X	X	
Capillariasis	X	X	
Capnocytophaga canimorsus	X	X	
Cat Scratch Fever	X	X	
Chagas Disease	X	X	
Clonorchiasis	X	X	
Coccidioidomycosis	X		
Coenuriasis	X		
Cowpox		X	
Dirofilaria (heart worm)	X		
Dog hook worm	X		
Dog tape worm	X	X	
Dracunculaisis	X	X	
Echinostomiasis	X	X	
Ehrlichiosis	X		
Eschericia coli enteritis	X	X	
Fasciolopsiasis	X		
Fish tape worm	X		
Filarisais	X	X	
Giant kidney worm	X		
Giardiasis	X		
Gnathostomiasis	X	X	
Heterophyiasis	X	X	
Hirudiniasis	X		
Hydatidosis	X	X	
Influenza	X		X
Larva migrans, cutaneous & visceral	X	X	
Leishmaniais	X		
Lymphocytic chorimengitis	X		
Mycobacterium chelonae/ bovis	X		X
Metagonimiasis	X	X	
Nocardiosis	X		
Opishtorchiasis	X	X	
Orthopox		X	

Infectious Disease	Dogs	Cats	Ferrets
Paragonimiasis (Liver flukes)	X	X	
Pasturellosis	X	X	
Pentasomid infections	X		
Plague	X	X	
Pneumocysitis	X	X	
Q Fever		X	
Rabies	X	X	
Rhinosporidiosis	X		
Ringworm	X	X	
Rocky Mountain Spotted fever	X		
Salmonella enteritis	X	X	
Sarcoptes (Scabies)	X		
Schistosomiasis	X	X	
Sparganosis		X	
Sporotrichosis	X	X	
Streptococcal pharyngitis (Group A) (_Strep throat‘)	X	X	
Strongyloidiasis	X		
Theleziasis	X	X	
Toxoplasmosis		X	
Trypanosomiasis (African Sleeping sickness)	X		
Tuberculosis	X	X	
Tularemia	X	X	
Tunga infections	X		

[See References]

Infectious complications are extremely common following cat bites and scratches, including fatalities due to infection. Individuals with compromised immune systems may suffer more severe, even fatal, consequences. Cornell School of Veterinary Medicine reports that approximately 25,000 people are diagnosed every year in the United States with *Bartonellosis*, or ―cat-scratch" disease. [Cornell –[Accessed Jan 2015].

It is known that some healthy cats continuously or intermittently show infection with cat-scratch disease bacteria. However, antibiotics do not reliably cure infection in these cats and are not currently recommended. [Cornell] In two cases of cat scratch, fatalities occurred from sepsis, in one case from *Capnocytophaga canimorsus* [McLean -2004], and another, from *Pasturella multocida* [Jones,-198; Drenjancevic -2008]. In a series of 34 case reports in which a patient had a wound infected with *P. multocida* cats were source of the infection in 60 - 80% of cases, and dogs in the great majority of the remainder. [Weber-1984]

Salmonellosis is another common zoonotic illness transmitted by both dogs and cats to humans. However, cats and other animals—even those that appear healthy—can carry and pass salmonella bacteria in their stool. [Cornell]

Toxoplasmosis is caused by the parasitic protozoan *Toxolasma gondii,* in which cats are the leading cause of zoonotic transmission to humans. People with weakened immune systems, or infants whose mothers are infected during pregnancy, can develop severe illness.

It is noteworthy that only two cases of toxoplasmosis have ever been documented in ferrets. Due to the parasite‘s host and life-cycle it has been deemed biologically impossible for a ferret to transmit toxoplasmosis to a human, unless the person ate the flesh of an infected ferret. [Cook -2000; AFA Policy; Williams – personal communication (AFIP)].

Only two cases of infection following a ferret bite have been reported in the published literature. In one case the patient was a 58 yo women with Type 2 diabetes mellitus and stage 4 chronic renal disease, who was immunocompromised and became infected with *Mycobacterium chelonae*. The infection occurred following a ferret bite and had not responded to oral antibiotics in the primary care setting. [Ivengar -2013] In an earlier case report a patient experienced recurrent *M. bovis* infection following a ferret bite. [Jones-1993]

Bites from dogs and cats have a much higher incidence of infection, with infection following dog bites occurring in 3- 18% of cases, and for cat bites, 28-80%. Sequelae from infections, while rare, are still quite serious and include meningitis, endocarditis, septic arthritis, and septic shock. One study examined the bacterial isolates from the bites wounds from ER patients that were caused by dogs and cats. The organisms grown out as shown in **Table 5.** [Talon -1999]

Table 5: Aerobic and Anaerobic Bacteria Isolates from Dog Bites (N=50) and Cat Bites (N=57) to humans*

Bacteria	Dog Bite	Cat Bite
	no. of patients (%)	
Aerobes		
Pasteurella	25 (50)	43 (75)
Past. canis	13 (26)	1 (2)
Past. multocida ssp. *multocida*	6 (12)	31 (54)
Past. x-romanis	6 (12)	2 (4)
Past. multocida ssp. *septica*	5 (10)	16 (28)
Past. dagmatis	2 (4)	4 (7)
Past. multocida ssp. *gallicida*	1 (2)	0
Other†	1 (2)	0
Streptococcus	23 (46)	26 (46)
Strep. mitis	11 (22)	13 (23)
Strep. mutans	6 (12)	6 (11)
Strep. pyogenes	6 (12)	0
Strep. sanguis II	4 (8)	7 (12)
Strep. intermedius	3 (6)	2 (4)
Strep. constellatus	2 (4)	2 (4)
Strep. equinus	1 (2)	3 (5)
Strep. sanguis I	1 (2)	3 (5)
Strep. agalactiae	1 (2)	1 (2)
Strep. salivarius	1 (2)	1 (2)
β-Hemolytic, group G	1 (2)	0
Strep. dysgalactiae	1 (2)	0
β-Hemolytic, group F	0	1 (2)
Staphylococcus	23 (46)	20 (35)
Staph. aureus	10 (20)	2 (4)
Staph. epidermidis	9 (18)	10 (18)
Staph. warneri	3 (6)	6 (11)
Other†	3 (6)	0
Staph. intermedius	1 (2)	1 (2)
Staph. hominis	1 (2)	1 (2)
Staph. auricularis	1 (2)	0
Staph. cohnii	1 (2)	0
Staph. xylosus	1 (2)	0
Staph. sciuri–lentus	0	2 (4)
Staph. capitis	0	1 (2)
Staph. haemolyticus	0	1 (2)
Staph. hyicus	0	1 (2)
Staph. saprophyticus	0	1 (2)
Staph. simulans	0	1 (2)
Neisseria	8 (16)	11 (19)
N. weaveri	7 (14)	8 (14)
N. subflava	1 (2)	1 (2)
Other†	1 (2)	0
N. cinerea–flavescens	0	1 (2)
N. mucosa	0	1 (2)
Corynebacterium	6 (12)	16 (28)
Group G	3 (6)	3 (5)
Coryne. minutissimum	2 (4)	4 (7)
Coryne. aquaticum	1 (2)	8 (14)
Coryne. jeikeium	1 (2)	1 (2)
Coryne. afermentans	1 (2)	0
Group E	1 (2)	0
Coryne. pseudodiphtheriticum	1 (2)	0
Other†	1 (2)	0
Group B	0	1 (2)
Group F-1	0	1 (2)
Coryne. knusche	0	1 (2)
Coryne. propinquum	0	1 (2)
Coryne. ureicum	0	1 (2)
Aerobes (cont.)		
Moraxella	5 (10)	20 (35)
Other†	5 (10)	18 (32)
Morax. osloensis	1 (2)	6 (11)
EF-4b	5 (10)	9 (16)
Enterococcus	5 (10)	7 (12)
Ente. faecalis	3 (6)	2 (4)
Ente. avium	1 (2)	0
Ente. malodoratus	1 (2)	0
Ente. durans	0	5 (9)
Bacillus	4 (8)	6 (11)
Bac. firmus	2 (4)	2 (4)
Bac. circulans	1 (2)	1 (2)
Bac. subtilis	1 (2)	0
Other†	0	3 (5)
Pseudomonas	3 (6)	3 (5)
Pseud. aeruginosa	1 (2)	0
Pseud. vesicularis	1 (2)	1 (2)
Pseud. diminuta	1 (2)	0
Pseud. putida	0	1 (2)
Pseud. mendocina	0	1 (2)
Actinomyces	3 (6)	2 (4)
Act. viscosus	2 (4)	1 (2)
Act. naeslundii ssp. *anitratus*	1 (2)	0
Other†	0	1 (2)
Brevibacterium†	3 (6)	2 (4)
Gemella morbillorum	3 (6)	2 (4)
EF-4a	3 (6)	0
Escherichia coli	3 (6)	0
Weeksella	2 (4)	4 (7)
W. virosa	0	1 (2)
W. zoohelcum	2 (4)	4 (7)
Klebsiella	2 (4)	1 (2)
K. oxytoca	1 (2)	1 (2)
K. pneumoniae	1 (2)	0
Lactobacillus	2 (4)	1 (2)
L. lactis	1 (2)	0
Other†	1 (2)	1 (2)
Citrobacter	2 (4)	0
Citro. amalonaticus	1 (2)	0
Citro. koseri	1 (2)	0
Flavobacterium	2 (4)	0
Group IIa	1 (2)	0
Flavo. breve	1 (2)	0
Micrococcus	2 (4)	0
Micro. lylae	1 (2)	0
Other†	1 (2)	0
Proteus mirabilis	2 (4)	0
Stenotrophomonas maltophilia	2 (4)	0
Capnocytophaga	1 (2)	4 (7)
Cap. ochracea	1 (2)	2 (4)
Other†	0	3 (5)
Eikenella corrodens	1 (2)	1 (2)
Haemophilus aegyptius	1 (2)	1 (2)
Dermabacter hominis	1 (2)	0
Oerskovia†	1 (2)	0
Peptococcus asaccharolyticus	1 (2)	0
Stomatococcus mucilaginosus	1 (2)	0
Acinetobacter	0	4 (7)
Acinet. baumannii	0	2 (4)
Acinet. lwoffii	0	2 (4)
Aerobes (cont.)		
Actinobacillus†	0	2 (4)
Alcaligenes	0	2 (4)
Alcal. faecalis	0	1 (2)
Alcal. odorans	0	1 (2)
Enterobacter cloacae	0	2 (4)
Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae	0	2 (4)
Kingella kingae	0	2 (4)
Rothia dentocariosa	0	2 (4)
Aeromonas hydrophila	0	1 (2)
Pasteurella agglomerans	0	1 (2)
Rhodococcus†	0	1 (2)
Streptomyces†	0	1 (2)
Anaerobes		
Fusobacterium	16 (32)	19 (33)
Fuso. nucleatum	8 (16)	14 (25)
Other†	6 (12)	4 (7)
Fuso. russii	1 (2)	8 (14)
Fuso. gonidiaformans	1 (2)	1 (2)
Fuso. alocis	1 (2)	0
Bacteroides	15 (30)	16 (28)
Bact. oralis	7 (14)	16 (28)
Bact. forsythus	2 (4)	0
Bact. gracilis	2 (4)	0
Bact. urealyticus	2 (4)	0
Bact. oralis group E	1 (2)	2 (4)
Bact. fragilis	1 (2)	1 (2)
Bact. ovatus	1 (2)	0
Porphyromonas	14 (28)	17 (30)
Porph. macacae	3 (6)	4 (7)
Porph. asaccharolytica	3 (6)	1 (2)
Porph. gingivalis	2 (4)	6 (11)
Porph. canoris	2 (4)	5 (9)
Porph. sangingivalis	2 (4)	2 (4)
Other†	2 (4)	0
Porph. circumdentaria	1 (2)	3 (5)
Porph. levii-like	1 (2)	0
Prevotella	14 (28)	11 (19)
Prev. heparinolytica	7 (14)	5 (9)
Prev. intermedia	4 (8)	0
Other†	1 (2)	4 (7)
Prev. zoogleoformans	2 (4)	1 (2)
Prev. melaninogenica	1 (2)	1 (2)
Prev. denticola	1 (2)	0
Propionibacterium	10 (20)	10 (18)
Prop. acnes	7 (14)	9 (16)
Prop. acidi–propionici	1 (2)	0
Prop. freudenreichii	1 (2)	0
Other†	1 (2)	0
Prop. avidum	0	1 (2)
Prop. lymphophilum	0	1 (2)
Peptostreptococcus	8 (16)	3 (5)
Pept. anaerobius	4 (8)	3 (5)
Other†	3 (6)	0
Pept. asaccharolyticus	1 (2)	0
Eubacterium†	2 (4)	1 (2)
Lactobacillus jensenii	1 (2)	0
Filifactor villosus	0	3 (5)
Clostridium sordellii	0	1 (2)
Veillonella†	0	1 (2)

*Some patients were infected with more than one type or species of bacteria. The abbreviation ssp. denotes subspecies.

†The isolate could not be identified beyond the genus level.

[From Table 3: Talon – 1999]

Rabies

Although rabies is a deadly disease, its prevalence in United States in humans is vanishing small, placing it among the very rarest of the infectious diseases. On average around 2 people are diagnosed with rabies infection annually in the US, in some cases contracting the disease in a foreign country.

Table 6 summarizes the CDC's annual surveillance data for reported positive rabies cases in the U.S., from 1980 through the current reporting period (2013). [CDC, JAVMA, etc.] Since 1980, through the current reporting period (2013), just over two dozen ferrets (N=26) have tested positive for the rabies virus. It should be noted that a rabies vaccine was not licensed for use in ferrets (and therefore not consistently administered) until 1990.

In contrast, 200-300 cats, and around 100 dogs have tested positive in any given year.

More importantly, there has never been a documented case in which a ferret transmitted rabies to a human or to another animal, which is certainly not the case for dogs, cats, or even humans. [Baer-1991; CDC, Medline search; Internet search]

Table 6: Annual US Rabies Surveillance Data 1980 – 2013 [Current to Jan 2015]

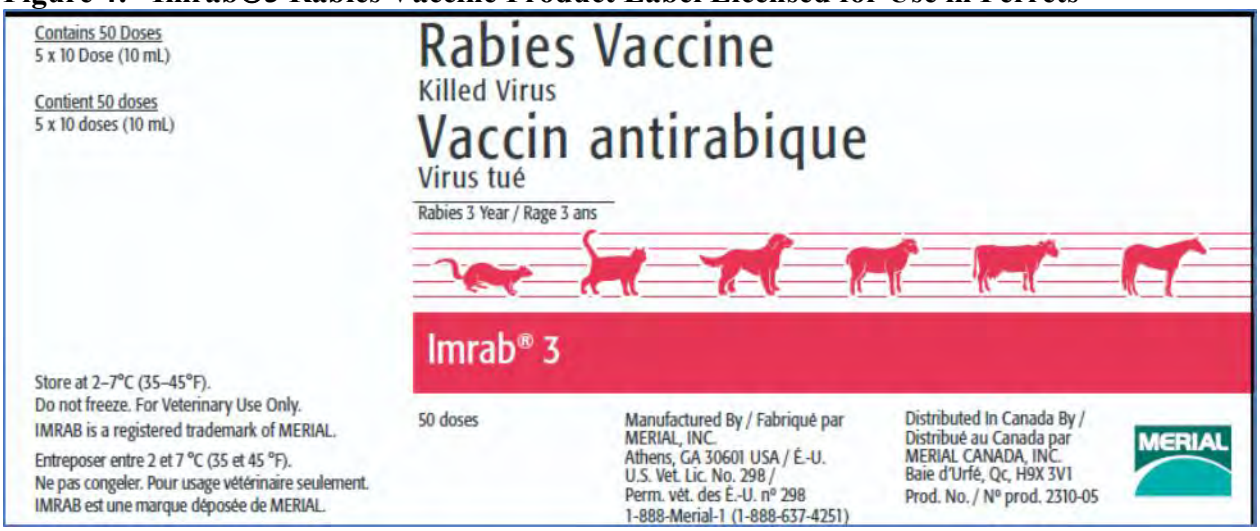
Reporting Year	Number Testing Positive for Rabies			
	Cats	Dogs	Humans	Ferrets
2013	247	89	3	0
2012	257	84	1	0
2011	303	70	6	0
2010	303	69	2	0
2009	300	81	4	1
2008	294	75	2	0
2007	274	93	1	0
2006	318	79	3	3
2005	269	76	1	0
2004	281	94	8	0
2003	321	117	3	1
2002	299	99	2	1
2001	270	89	1	0
2000	249	114	5	0
1999	278	111	0	0
1998	282	113	1	1
1997	300	126	4	0
1996	266	111	4	3
1995	288	146	4	2
1994	267	153	6	1
1993	291	130	3	1
1992	290	182	1	2
1991	189	155	3	0
1990	176	148	1	0
1989	212	160	1	0
1988	192	128	0	0
1987	166	170	1	2
1986	166	95	0	3
1985	130	113	1	2
1984	140	97	3	0
1983	168	132	2	1
1982	209	153	0	1
1981	285	216	2	1
1980	214	247	0	0
Totals:	**8494**	**4115**	**79**	**26**
Annual Average:	250	121	2.3	0.76
Approx. 2001 Populations:	60 Million	57 Million	230 Million	7 Million
Annual Per Million Rate:	4.167	2.123	0.010	0.109

[From: CDC reports published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and/or Journal of the American Veterinary Association]

Rabies Vaccine

There is an approved rabies vaccine for ferrets. Originally licensed by the USDA for use in ferrets in February 1990, the Imrab®-3 killed rabies virus vaccine continues to be licensed for use in ferrets. The vaccine has been clinically proven to be safe and effective for use in ferrets. [Rupprecht (CDC)-1990]. It is the same vaccine product that is also labeled for use in dogs, cats, horses, cattle, and sheep. **Figure 4** shows the current product label.

Figure 4: Imrab®3 Rabies Vaccine Product Label Licensed for Use in Ferrets



DESCRIPTION: IMRAB® 3 contains the same virus strain that is used in the Pasteur Merieux Connaught human vaccine. The virus is grown in a stable cell line, inactivated, and mixed with a safe and potent adjuvant. Safety and immunogenicity of this product have been demonstrated by vaccination and challenge tests in susceptible animals.

INDICATIONS: IMRAB® 3 is recommended for the vaccination of healthy cats, dogs, sheep, cattle, horses, and ferrets 12 weeks of age and older for prevention of disease due to rabies virus.

DOSAGE: Aseptically inject 1 mL (1 dose) subcutaneously or intramuscularly into healthy cats or dogs; 2 mL into healthy sheep, cattle, and horses. Inject 1 mL subcutaneously into healthy ferrets. Revaccinate ferrets, cattle, and horses annually; cats, dogs, and sheep 1 year after first vaccination, then every 3 years.

PRECAUTIONS: Store at 2–7°C (35–45°F). Do not freeze. Do not vaccinate food producing animals within 21 days prior to slaughter. Shake well before using. Use entire contents when first opened. Do not use chemicals to sterilize syringes and needles. Contains gentamicin as a preservative. A transient local reaction may occur at the injection site following subcutaneous administration. Some reports suggest that in cats, the administration of certain veterinary biologicals may induce the development of injection site fibrosarcomas. In rare instances, administration of vaccines may cause lethargy, fever, and inflammatory or hypersensitivity types of reactions. Treatment may include antihistamines, anti-inflammatories, and/or epinephrine.

SOLD TO VETERINARIANS ONLY. RM949R6

DESCRIPTION : IMRAB® 3 renferme la même souche virale que celle utilisée dans le vaccin pour les humains de Pasteur Merieux Connaught. Le virus est propagé dans une lignée cellulaire stable, inactivé et mélangé avec un adjuvant sûr et efficace. L'innocuité et l'immunogénicité de ce vaccin ont été démontrées par la vaccination d'animaux susceptibles et par leur exposition au virus lors d'épreuves de provocation.

INDICATIONS : IMRAB® 3 est recommandé pour la vaccination des chats, des chiens, des moutons, des bovins, des chevaux et des furets en santé âgés d'au moins 12 semaines pour prévenir la maladie attribuable au virus de la rage.

POSOLOGIE : Par technique aseptique, administrer 1 mL (1 dose) en injection sous-cutanée ou intramusculaire aux chats et aux chiens en santé; 2 mL aux moutons, aux bovins et aux chevaux en santé. Administrer 1 mL en injection sous-cutanée aux furets en santé. Revacciner annuellement les furets, les bovins et les chevaux; revacciner les chats, les chiens et les moutons un an après la première vaccination, puis tous les trois ans.

MISES EN GARDE : Entreposer entre 2 et 7 °C (35 et 45 °F). Préserver du gel. Ne pas vacciner les animaux destinés à l'alimentation dans les 21 jours qui précèdent l'abattage. Bien mélanger avant l'utilisation. Une fois le flacon ouvert, tout son contenu doit être utilisé. N'utiliser aucun produit chimique pour stériliser les seringues et les aiguilles. Renferme de la gentamycine comme agent de conservation. Une réaction locale transitoire peut être observée au point d'injection, à la suite d'une administration sous-cutanée. Quelques rapports indiquent que chez le chat, l'administration de certains vaccins peut provoquer la formation de fibrosarcomes au point d'injection. Dans de rares cas, la vaccination peut causer de la léthargie, de la fièvre et des réactions inflammatoires ou d'hypersensibilité. Traiter avec des antihistaminiques, des anti-inflammatoires ou de l'épinéphrine.

LA VENTE DE CE PRODUIT EST RESTREINTE AUX VÉTÉRINAIRES.

Rabies Quarantine Period

Ferrets are treated in the same manner as dogs and cats with regard to quarantine and other rabies prevention and treatment recommendations of the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, as published in the NASPHV Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control. [NASPHV – 2011: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr6006.pdf]

With regard to ferrets, New York City has been following the Compendium, recommending quarantine of a domestic ferret that had bitten an individual, as discussed below in the City Health Information, from the NYC Department of Health (April 1999, vol. 18, No 1), shown at **Figure 5.**

Figure 5: Rabies Quarantine for Ferret in New York City

Q: *My patient was bitten by a ferret. Is postexposure prophylaxis recommended? Does the ferret have to be euthanized and tested for rabies?*

PEP need not be initiated if the ferret is healthy and available for confinement and observation for signs suggestive of rabies. (It does not have to be euthanized.)

Recent studies[10] have demonstrated that ferrets only shed virus in saliva immediately prior to and concomitant with obvious clinical signs of rabies. Therefore, if a biting ferret held for 10 days does not show signs suggestive of rabies, it can be concluded that the animal was not infectious at the time of the bite. On the basis of this new information, guidelines for postexposure prophylaxis now put ferrets in a category with cats and dogs (rather than with wild terrestrial carnivores such as raccoons, skunks, and foxes).[1]

[From: CHI- NYC DOH Rabies Prevention in New York City April 1999.]

Feral Status

Since the 1980's several surveys of the United States, and more recently including Canadian provinces, have concluded that there are no documented feral colonies of domestic ferrets in North America. [National Parks Association – 1977, Phillips–1990; Arreaza–2010]

In distinct contrast, dog and cat feral colonies currently exist in many regions, including major urban centers of Los Angeles, St. Louis, and New York City. [Mott (National Geographic)-2003]

The extent of the problem arising from feral dogs and cats roaming urban centers has been described as an ~~"~~epidemic" that ~~"~~that gone largely unnoticed because urban feral dogs and cats have extraordinary skills at remaining invisible. [Doig-2012]

Within the past month, ABC News reported on feral dog attacks to NYC residents:

> *"Two people were recovering today after being attacked by a pack of stray dogs on a boardwalk in the New York City borough of Queens, the second incident involving feral dogs in the city this week. On Monday, a pack of dogs slipped into a zoo in Staten Island and killed two wallabies, four deer and two peacocks. In the mauling Wednesday, a 51-*

> *year-old Rockaway woman was attacked by four dogs — two rottweilers, two pit bulls and a German shepherd mix — as she jogged on a boardwalk in Rockaway, a peninsula separating the Atlantic Ocean from Jamaica Bay. She was bitten on the legs and could not drive the dogs off. She was helped by two other joggers, one of whom grabbed a stick to try to keep the animals at bay while the other called police."*
> [ABC News: Dec 27, 2014, accessed Jan 2015]

New York City also has a significant population of feral cats:

> *"Tens of thousands of street cats live in the alleyways, backyards, and outdoor spaces of New York City. They are the offspring of lost or abandoned pet cats and, unneutered, they go on to spawn new generations. The cats group themselves together in packs called colonies. Many of their nuisance behaviors can be attributed to mating behaviors that would likely cease if they were sterilized. These behaviors include noise from fighting and mating, and the smell from the spraying of pheromone-laced urine.*
>
> *Because these cats are not socialized to humans, they are not candidates for adoption. The breeding of these street cats results in more kittens entering the shelters — taking away homes that would otherwise go to the adult cats already there. Most adult feral cats taken in at city shelters are euthanized (killed) because they are not adoptable as house pets. As a result, the city must shoulder higher costs for municipal animal control."*
> [From: NYC Feral Cat Initiative]

Legal Status

Ferrets are legally owned in every state except California and Hawaii. Since the early 1990's, the following jurisdictions have legalized or re-legalized ferret ownership:

STATES	Cities/Counties
Alaska	Baltimore City & Baltimore County
Connecticut	Minneapolis
Massachusetts	Salt Lake City & Salt Lake County
Michigan	San Antonio City
New Hampshire	
South Carolina	
Utah	

[From: American Ferret Association]

No negative impact on public health has been reported from the above changes in legal status.

Bans Simply Do Not Work

In places where ferrets are, or have been banned, the ban does not appear to have kept ferrets out:

> *–A count of ferret owners across the U.S. was unavailable, but the American Pet Products Association said that in 1992, 2 percent of people who owned a small animal like a mouse, rat, ferret, gerbil, rabbit, hamster or guinea pig said they had a ferret. In 2000, 10 percent of small-animal owners said they had a ferret, and 7 percent in 2010 had them. That's despite bans in the two states, plus a number of large cities including New York, and U.S. military bases.*
>
> *In California, where having a ferret can net a $500 fine or six months in jail, Wright estimated between 50,000 and 500,000 pet ferrets live a clandestine existence. His guess is based on ferret-supply sales and a 5,000-member mailing list for his ferret legalization cause."*

[AP wire – 2013]

Ferrets are not generally allowed to run free, as are dogs and cats. They do not require walking by leash, and can be easily maintained in a small apartment for the entirety of their lives. This makes the ferret an ideal –apartment" pet. It should come as no surprise that owners of ferrets currently reside within New York City, as demonstrated by participants in online forums, and local ferret clubs. Ferret owners are also known to travel considerable distances from neighboring states to and through the NYC to seek expert medical care for their ferrets by the exemplary exotics veterinary specialists at The Animal Medical Center, located in the heart of the Manhattan [http://www.amcny.org/avian-exotic-pets; (Accessed Jan 2015)].

* * *

In summary, the data presented above provides a solid basis upon which to conclude that amending the current rule to permit ferret ownership will not endanger the public health of NYC residents. It may even serve to improve human health, by allowing ferret owners who already live in NYC the ability openly to seek health care that prevents the spread of zoonotic diseases and improves the lives of their pets. Such a position would be in line not only with the laws and policies of New York State and surrounding states, but also with those of the federal government.

The value of ferrets to the residents of New York City is best captured by the United States Department of Agricultures' Information summary on the human-animal bond:

> *"Although the ways we interact with animals in some ways has changed through the ages, in other ways, we interact with them in ways that the early humans did. We enjoy them; we hunt them; we keep them as pets; we depend on them for food, fiber and leather; we have fun with them; we use them as examples of behavior; and we just enjoy watching them; we are inspired by them; we use them to understand ourselves, etc. As*

humans, we should protect them; realize their value; appreciate them; ensure that they have places to live in the wild, etc. Last but not least, we should all silently thank them for all they contribute to our lives. They truly enrich and nourish our human experience."
[From Ho-USDA AWIC NAL – 2005]

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Dr. Hoffman *frequently consults on scientific and public health policy issues. She is board-certified in pediatrics, licensed in the state of California. After spending a decade at the National Cancer Institute directing programs in nutrition and supportive care and biotechnology clinical development programs, she joined the FDA and served as former deputy director of the Medicine Staff in the Office of the FDA Commissioner, where she reviewed and analyzed policy for the Department of Health and Human Services and chaired the FDA's internal IRB. Now retired at the rank of Captain from the US Public Health Service after twenty two years of public service, she currently owns and manages a private consulting firm. Last year she was an invited speaker, presenting at the 18th Presidential Commission on the Bioethical Issues, as part of the President's BRAIN initiative, and consults to the National Institutes of Health. She has owned ferrets since 1981, but has no commercial interest or conflicts.*

Ms. Czubaruk *is a policy manager at the American Academy of Nursing in Washington, DC. She is an honors graduate of George Washington Law school where she obtained a JD, and a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Union College in Schenectady, New York. She served as a judicial intern to Honorable Harold A. Ackerman. United States District Court, District of New Jersey, Newark, NJ, May 1986 to August 1986. She has served as a legal consultant and advisor to the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network (FAAN), and as a legal resource for attorneys throughout the nation on issues involving food allergies and disability law. Ms. Czubaruk has never owned ferrets and has no commercial interest or conflicts.*

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SEASEARCH BIOLOGICAL SURVEYS
1275 S Lee. Street, St. David AZ 85630 • 520.221.1595 • pancot@verizon.net

January 20, 2015

RE: Notice of Public Hearing and Opportunity to Comment on Proposed Amendments to Articles 11 and 161 of the New York City Health Code

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

TO THE DOCKET:

This letter is in response for a request for public comment on New York City's proposed amendments that would legalize the possession and ownership of the domestic ferret within New York City and surrounding Burroughs.

I am providing information in support of the proposed amendments to remove domestic ferrets from the prohibited animal list and to allow their possession and ownership in New York City.

In this letter I will address and provide information regarding the following topics:

- Confirm the domestic status of the ferret (Mustela putorius furo)
- Status of the ferret as a predator
- Role of the ferret in the Ecosystem
- Confirm the absence of documentation for any feral ferrets or feral ferret colonies in the United States and Canada.

Respectfully yours,

[signed in hardcopy]

M.Scott Sinclair
Senior Wildlife Biologist
SeaSearch Biological Surveys

Attachments:

A: The New York Zoological Society

B: The Zoological Society of San Diego Zoo

C: 2008 Domestic Carnivore Survey: Poster Presentation 17th Annual Wildlife Society Meeting (Oct 4, 201) [SeaSearch Biological Surveys].

D: 2008 Domestic Carnivore Survey Results from New York State.

Domestic Status

The pet ferret is a domestic species, as confirmed by The New York Zoological Society, and other major scientific organizations.

The domestic ferret, *Mustela putorius furo* ("ferret") is a member of the Family Mustelidae, Genus, *Mustela,* of which they are the only domesticated species. Other close relatives include the European polecat, *M. putorius putorius,* found wild in the United Kingdom, Europe, but not in the Western world. [ITIS; Davidson 1999]

The "pet" ferret is classified as *Mustela putorius furo or M. furo.* It was likely domesticated from the European polecat, *M. putorius putorius*. Analysis of mitochondrial DNA suggests that ferrets were domesticated around 2,500 years ago. What appear to be ferret remains have been dated to 1500 BC. [Davidson 1999]

The domestic ferret should not be confused with the North American black-footed ferret, *M. nigripes*. The black-footed ferret is the only wild ferret that exists, and it is one of the rarest mammals on the North American continent protected by the Endangered Species Act. [US FWS]

All current scientific organizations support the domestic classification of the ferret, including but not limited to The New York Zoological Society (**Attachment A**) and The Zoological Society of San Diego Zoo (**Attachment B**).

In addition, the federal government of the United States recognizes the ferret as a domestic species. The United States Department of Agriculture rejected public comments submitted to the proposed rule for Animal Welfare Act to label the domestic ferret as a "wild" animal, responding that "[ferrets] are considered to be easily handled and relatively non-dangerous, and are now commonly bred as pet animals." [Federal Register, Vol. 54, No. 49, pp. 10830, Mar. 15, 1989.]

Predation

Due to its domestic status, the ferret does not have natural predators. Stray ferrets would, however, be natural prey to larger predators such as other larger mustelids, domestic and feral dogs, coyotes, foxes, domestic and feral cats, bobcats bear, wolves, mountain lions, and other carnivorous mammals, as well as birds of prey, such as hawks, eagles and owls.

Humans have used ferrets to control rodent populations and to hunt rabbits and other game—a practice called "ferreting." Today, however, use of ferrets for ferreting is outlawed in most jurisdictions.

Ecosystem Role

There is no role for the domestic ferret in an ecosystem, as it does not inhabit natural ecosystems. As an "outsider" the domestic ferret would first have to displace a native predator from its ecological niche.

Existence in the "Wild"

Domestic ferrets do not exist in the wild in the United States or on the American continents. There is no documentation of a feral colony of ferrets (M. putorius furo) in the United States or Canada.

No feral colony of domestic ferrets has been documented in the continental United States.

In contrast feral cat colonies are abundant in NYC and are having a negative impact on the environment and public health:

> "Tens of thousands of street cats live in the alleyways, backyards, and outdoor spaces of New York City. They are the offspring of lost or abandoned pet cats and, unneutered, they go on to spawn new generations. The cats group themselves together in packs called colonies. Many of their nuisance behaviors can be attributed to mating behaviors that would likely cease if they were sterilized. These behaviors include noise from fighting and mating, and the smell from the spraying of pheromone-laced urine."
> [From: NYC Feral Cat Initiative]

Between 2008 and 2010, SeaSearch Biological Surveys conducted a survey of the 50 US states, the District of Columbia, and the ten Canadian provinces. The purpose was to determine the impact of three domestic carnivore species, the dog (*Canis lupis familiaris), the cat (Felis silvestris catus),* and the ferret (*M. putorius furo*).

Using objective measures and rating scales to reduce variability and subjectivity, surveys to fish and wildlife departments addressed sightings, feral populations, impact, and concerns. Starting June 2008, the appropriate state or provincial unit was identified and the surveys were then distributed by e-mail, facsimile, and courier. Contacts were told the purpose was scientific and results would be peer-reviewed. Details and results are presented in **Attachment C.** Responses to the survey received from New York State are shown in **Attachment D**.

This survey supports the conclusion that while there may be an occasional sighting of a stray ferret, there is no documented case where ferrets have set up a feral colony in the United States or Canada.

Indeed**, it would be quite difficult for domestic ferrets to form such a colony, as more than 90 per cent of ferrets sold through the pet industry are spayed or neutered prior to sale.**

Ferrets also easily succumb to extreme temperatures. For example, they are intolerant to temperatures that generally exceed 85 °F, as they have no physiological means to sweat or pant. Their wild-relatives are burrowers and thus escape excessive heat or cold in that manner.

Finally, ferrets that are not taught to hunt from a young age would perish from dehydration, hunger, or larger predators, such as dogs or native wildlife.

Thus, the current data support that the ferret is a domestic species that has essentially no impact on the environment. In contrast, domestic dogs and cats are of much greater concern to the environment, wildlife and agricultural agencies, and the agricultural industries.

In conclusion, these data support the legalization of ferrets in New York City.

REFERENCES

Arreaza, A, Sinclair M.S, Kaplan, V, et al. Poster: A Single-Blind Survey of the United States and Canada on the Environmental Impact of Stray or Feral Domestic Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets. [SeaSearch Biological Surveys, St. David, AZ] presented at The Wildlife Society's 17th Annual Conference Snowbird, UT. Oct 4, 2010.

Davidson A, Birks J, Griffiths L, et al. Hybridization and the phylogenetic relationship between polecats and the domestic ferret in Britain. Biological Conservation. pp: 155-161. 1999.

Glover J. The ancestry of the domestic ferret. PetPeoplesPlace.com. [Accessed 2015]

Integrated Taxonomic Information System (US) – ITIS
http://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search_topic=TSN&search_value=621954&print_version=PRT&source=to_print

National Parks and Conservation Association survey of feral animals in the national park system. National Parks and Conservation Magazine 51:16-20, 1977.

New York City Feral Cat Organization: New York City Feral Cat Initiative http://nycferalcat.org/

The New York Zoological Society – personal communication

The Zoological Society of San Diego Zoo – personal communication

United States Fish and Wildlife Services –Fact Sheet: Black-footed ferret *Mustela nigripes*.
http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/factsheets/Black-Footed-Ferret.pdf

ATTACHMENT A

Letter from the New York Zoological Society

NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Mr. William Adams

New York, NY

Dear Mr. Adams,

In your recent letter to me, you asked: "Could you tell me if the ferrets you buy in pet shops are classified as wild or domestic animals? The answer is domestic.

All domestic animals originated from wild species. After the wild animals were taken into captivity, their keepers "selectively bred" them so as to cause the expression of traits that were deemed beneficial to man (e.g. calmness, milk production, coat color, hair quality, etc.) The important point is that man chose the evolutionary direction of the species, rather than nature with its method of "natural selection." After a significant amount of change in characteristics occurred, biologist considered the species "domesticated." Domestic animals are assigned different scientific names from their original wild species.

The domestic ferret (Mustela putorius furo) has been selectively bred for many years from the original wild species of European ferret (Mustela putorius putorius). In the USA alone, this process has been going on since about 1875. The original European ferrets were captured --- and the motivation for domesticating the species --- was to produce an efficient and manageable "ratter" (i.e. to catch rats!).

I hope this information is of help to you. I have been Curator of Mammalogy at the New York Zoological Park for the last eight years.

Sincerely,

Fred W. Koontz

Fred W. Koontz, Ph.D.
Curator of Mammalogy

BRONX, NEW YORK 10460 TELEPHONE 212-220-5100 TELEX 428279 NYZWCI

NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL PARK/BRONX ZOO • NEW YORK AQUARIUM • WILDLIFE CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL
CENTRAL PARK ZOO • OSBORN LABORATORIES OF MARINE SCIENCES • ST. CATHERINES ISLAND WILDLIFE SURVIVAL CENTER

CONSERVATION EDUCATION RESEARCH

ATTACHMENT B

Letter from the Zoological Society of San Diego

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Executive Director

The Zoological Society of San Diego

April 11, 1990

Joel D. Johnson
14920 Paul Avenue, No.
Marine-on-St. Croix, MN 55047

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for your letter regarding the European ferret, furo. This is simply a domestic form of the European polecat. It does not exist as a wild animal.

Regards,

James M. Dolan, Jr., Ph.D.
Director of Collections

sb

Post Office Box 551, San Diego, California 92112-0551 USA Telephone (619) 231-1515 FAX (619) 231-0249

ATTACHMENT C

POSTER PRESENTATION AT THE WILDIILDLIFE SOCIETY'S 17TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE SNOWBIRD, UT. OCT 4, 2010

A Single-Blind Survey of the United States and Canada on the Environmental Impact of Stray or Feral Domestic Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets.
SeaSearch Biological Surveys, St. David, AZ

INTRODUCTION

Surveys determining the environmental impact of species often serve as a basis for legislation and policy. Response to surveys conducted over two decades regarding domestic animals revealed substantial subjectivity and bias. Response levels varied depending on the identity of the surveying organization. Therefore, SeaSearch undertook a "single-blind" survey of 5 types of governmental agencies to update information on the impact of three domestic carnivores (*Canis lupis familiaris, Felis silvestris catus,* and *Mustela putorius furo*).

METHODS

Using objective measures and rating scales to reduce variability and subjectivity, surveys to US and Canadian fish and wildlife departments addressed sightings, feral populations, impact, and concerns. Starting June 2008, we identified the appropriate state or provincial unit. Surveys were distributed by e-mail, fax, and courier, with documented receipt. Contacts were told the purpose was scientific and that results would be peer-reviewed. Agencies were contacted until we received a survey (S) [complete or incomplete] or "non-survey" (NS) response [comments and concerns], or refusal (NR) [no usable information]. Jurisdictions that failed to respond were contacted directly by telephone and by e-mail and received at least three opportunities to respond. Cutoff to data collection was June 30, 2010. All data were entered into Microsoft Access 2007. Using randomization, 25% of the entire database was audited, with second 10% data audit for each analysis presented here.

RESULTS

Agencies submitted their responses to SeaSearch in hard copy, electronic files, or by facsimile. Of 61 agencies queried, 52 were S+NS and 9 were NR. Individual responders represented a wide range of organizational levels and expertise. Responder ranged from "bureau chief" to "game warden trainee"; nonresponders included "receptionists". Of participants, 4% cited "no data", ~12% claimed that they were the "wrong" agency-- referring us to other agencies, nongovernmental bodies, or lacked resources to respond (<4%). For "Unconfined Sightings" 12.3% of agencies gave quantitative estimates; 77.8% gave qualitative ratings. "Impact on Wildlife" from cats was well documented (14.94%), in contrast to dogs (4.33%) or ferrets (0.32%). Sixteen agencies considered cats of "special" concern, followed by dogs (10), with ferrets posing little or no concern (2).

CONCLUSION

This survey examined the environmental impact of three domestic species. More documentation is available for cats than for dogs or ferrets, which is commensurate with the level of concern over the impact of feral cats. However, most responses reflected the expertise and opinion of individual responders. Active surveillance would be needed to document the environmental impact of these species.

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1. Jurek R, Ryan P. 1996-97 Nationwide ferret survey of state wildlife agencies. Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game Recovery Program report. Sacramento, CA. 1999
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4. Witmer G, Constantin B, Boyd F. Feral and introduced carnivores: issues and challenges. Proceed.11th Wildlife Damage Management Conference. Ed: Nolte D Fagsterone K. 2005.

FIGURES:

Question 5: Frequency of Sightings for Dogs, Cats, Ferrets

Question 5: Average Number of Dogs, Cats, Ferrets per Sighting

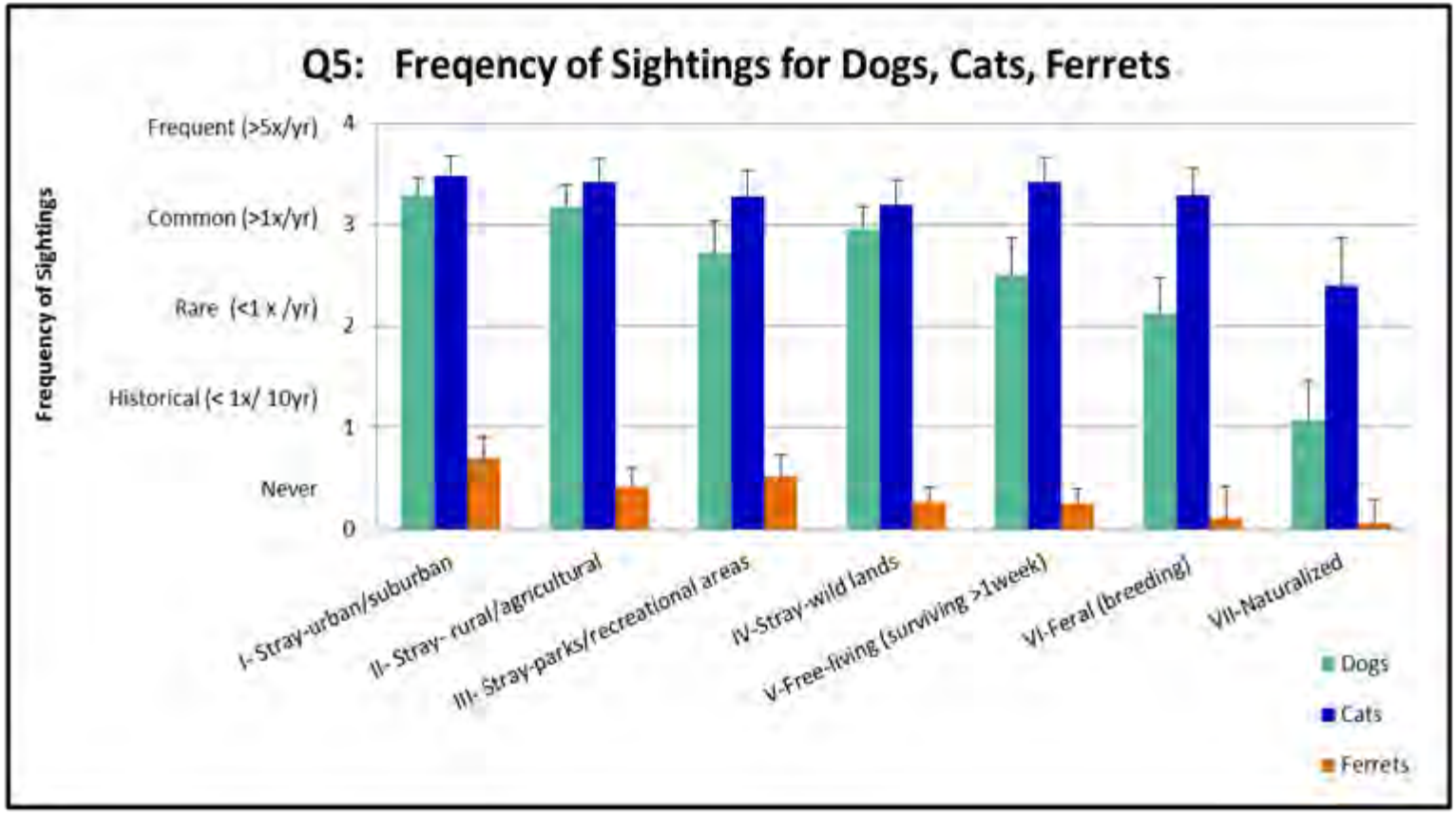
Question 6: Existence (Sightings) of Unconfined Dogs, Cats, Ferrets

Question 6: Percent Responders Indicating Documentation for Sightings and/or Effects re: Unconfined Animal populations

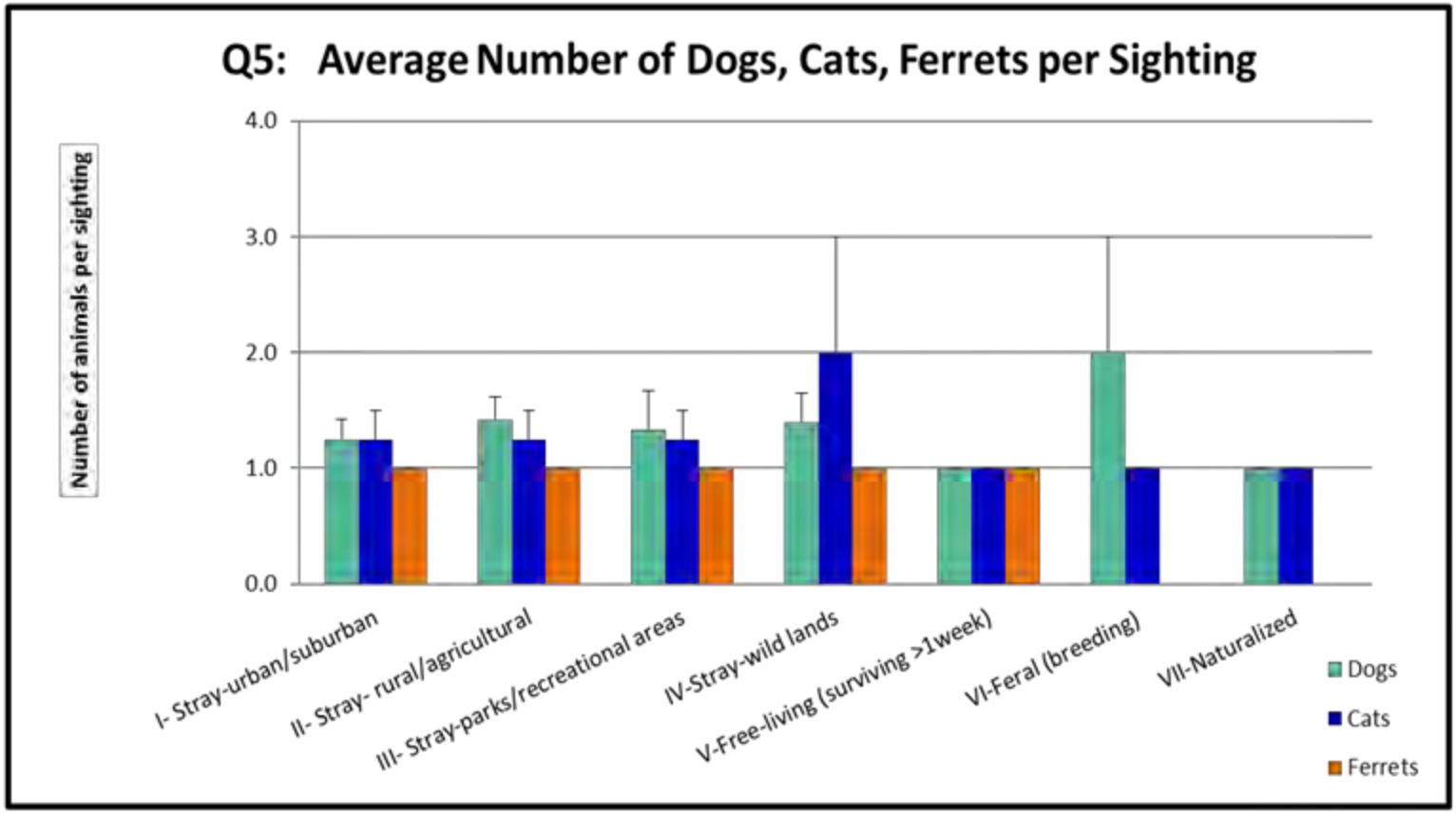
Question 7: Existence of Incidents from Dogs, Cats, Ferrets on Wildlife

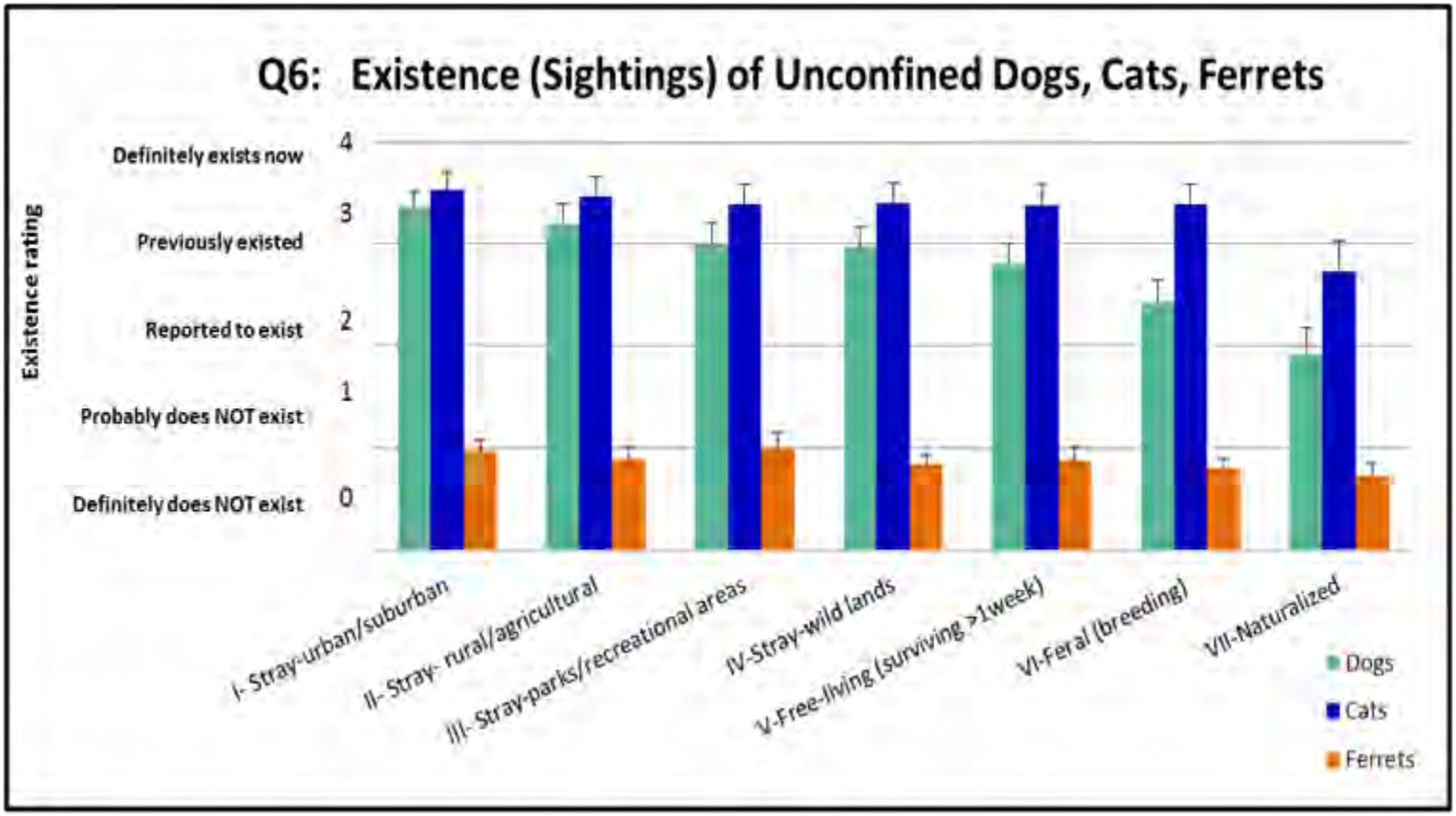
Question 7: Degree of Concern re: Incidents on Wildlife

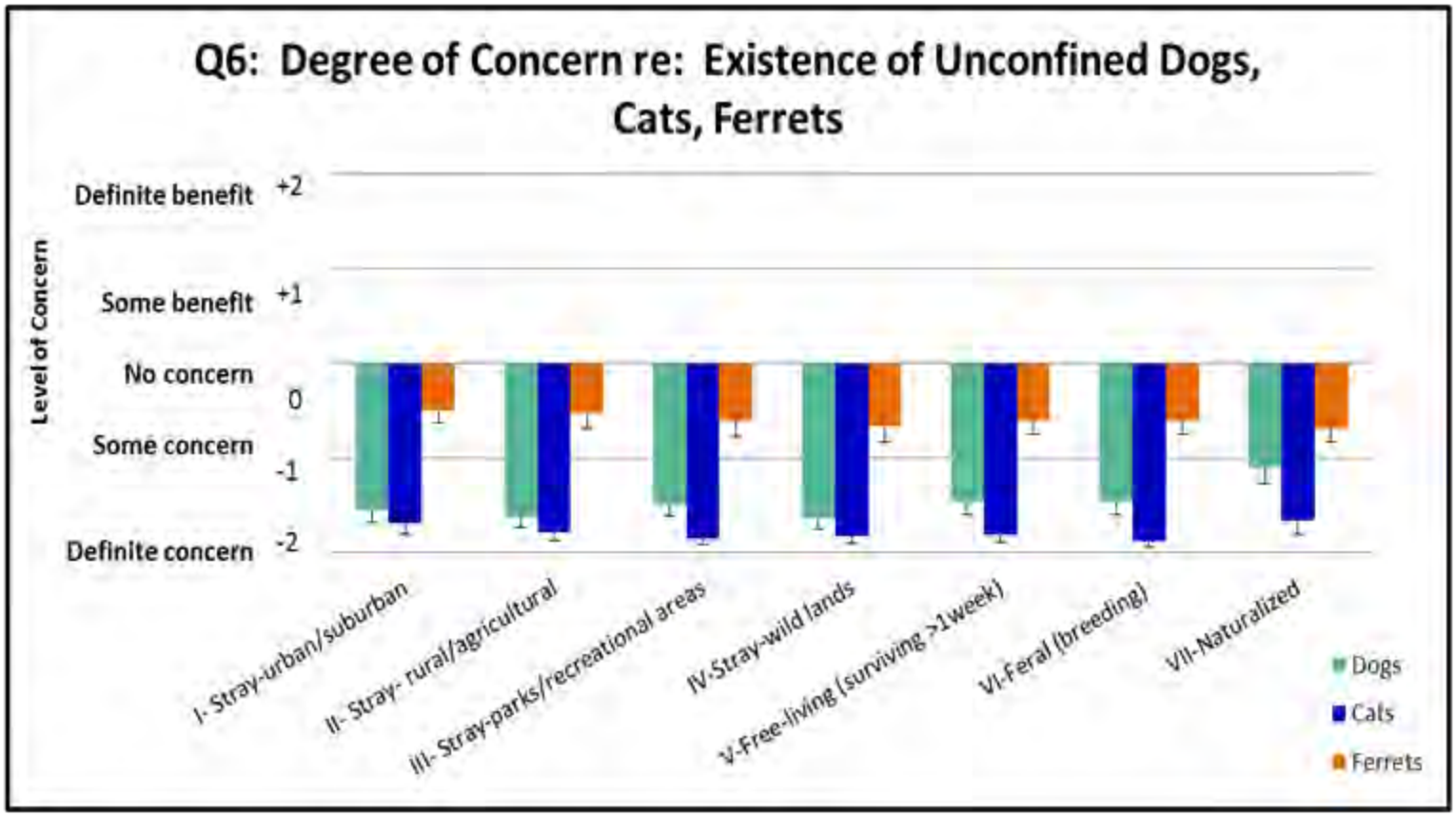
Question 7: Percent Responders Indicating Documentation for Sightings and/or Effects on Wildlife

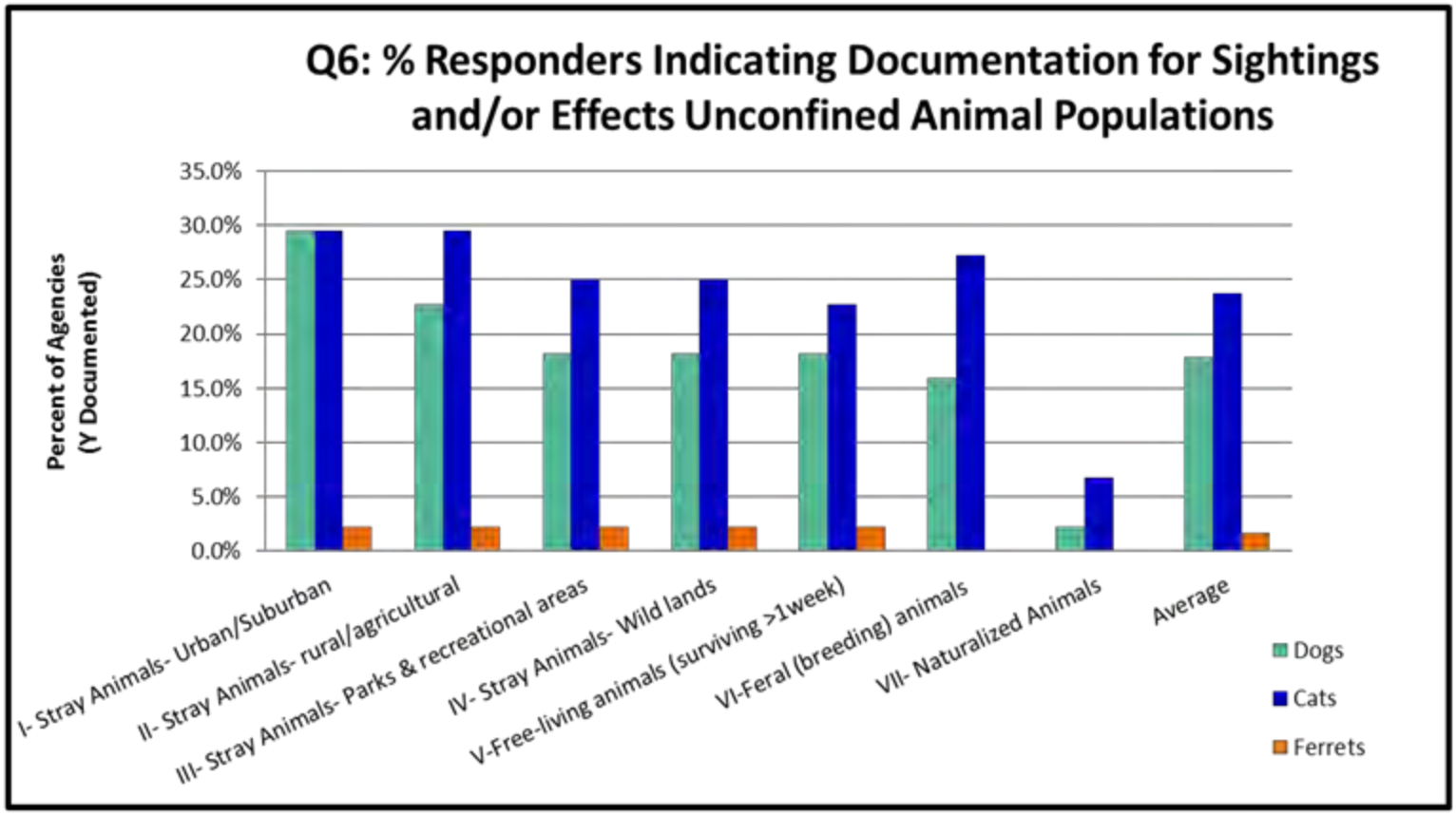

Q5: Freqency of Sightings for Dogs, Cats, Ferrets
Frequency of Sightings
Frequent (>5x/yr)
Common (>1x/yr)
Rare (<1 x /yr)
Historical (< 1x/ 10yr)
Never
4
3
2
1
0
I- Stray-urban/suburban
II- Stray- rural/agricultural
III- Stray-parks/recreational areas
IV-Stray-wild lands
V-Free-living (surviving >1week)
VI-Feral (breeding)
VII-Naturalized
Dogs
Cats
Ferrets

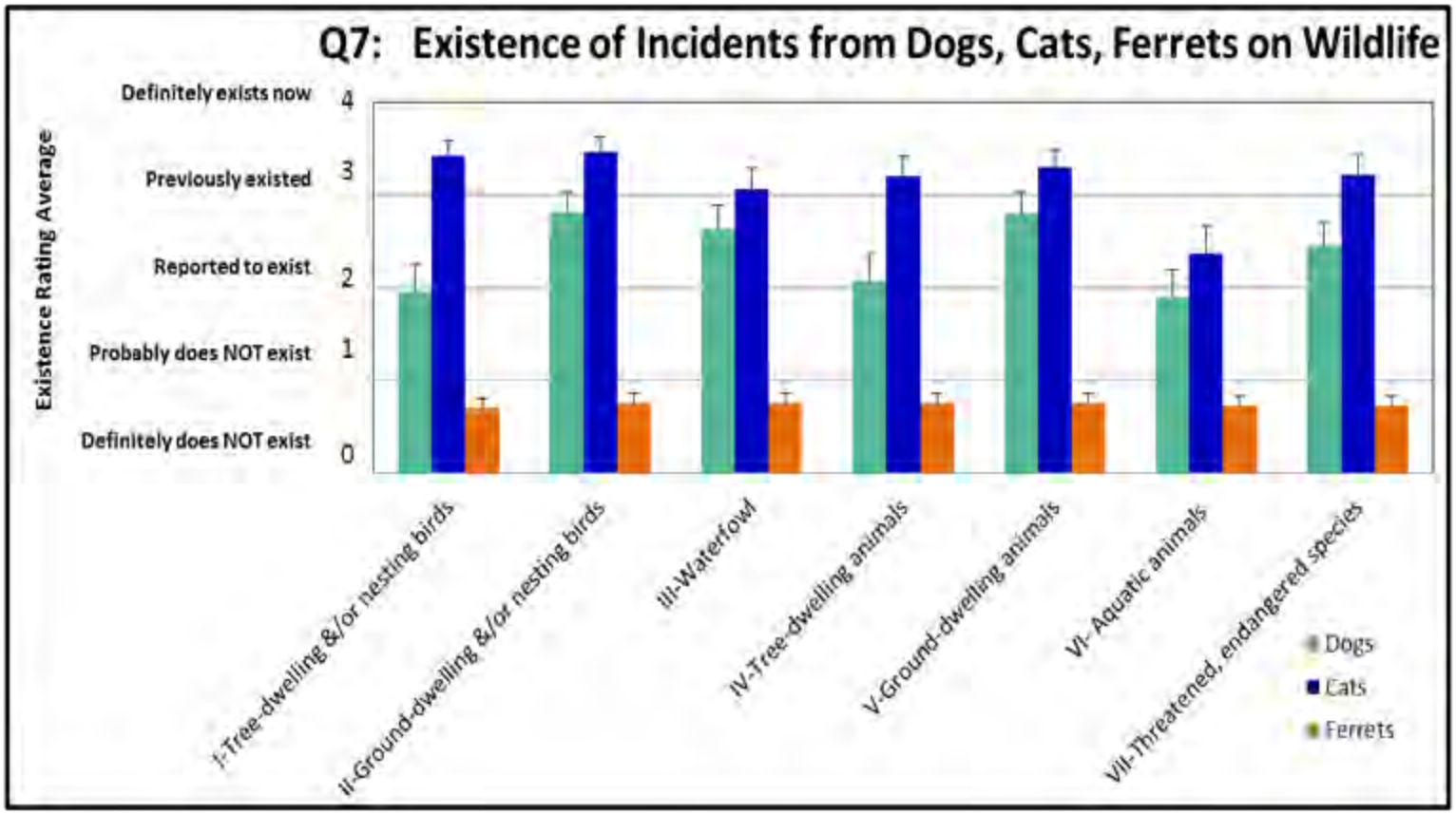
**

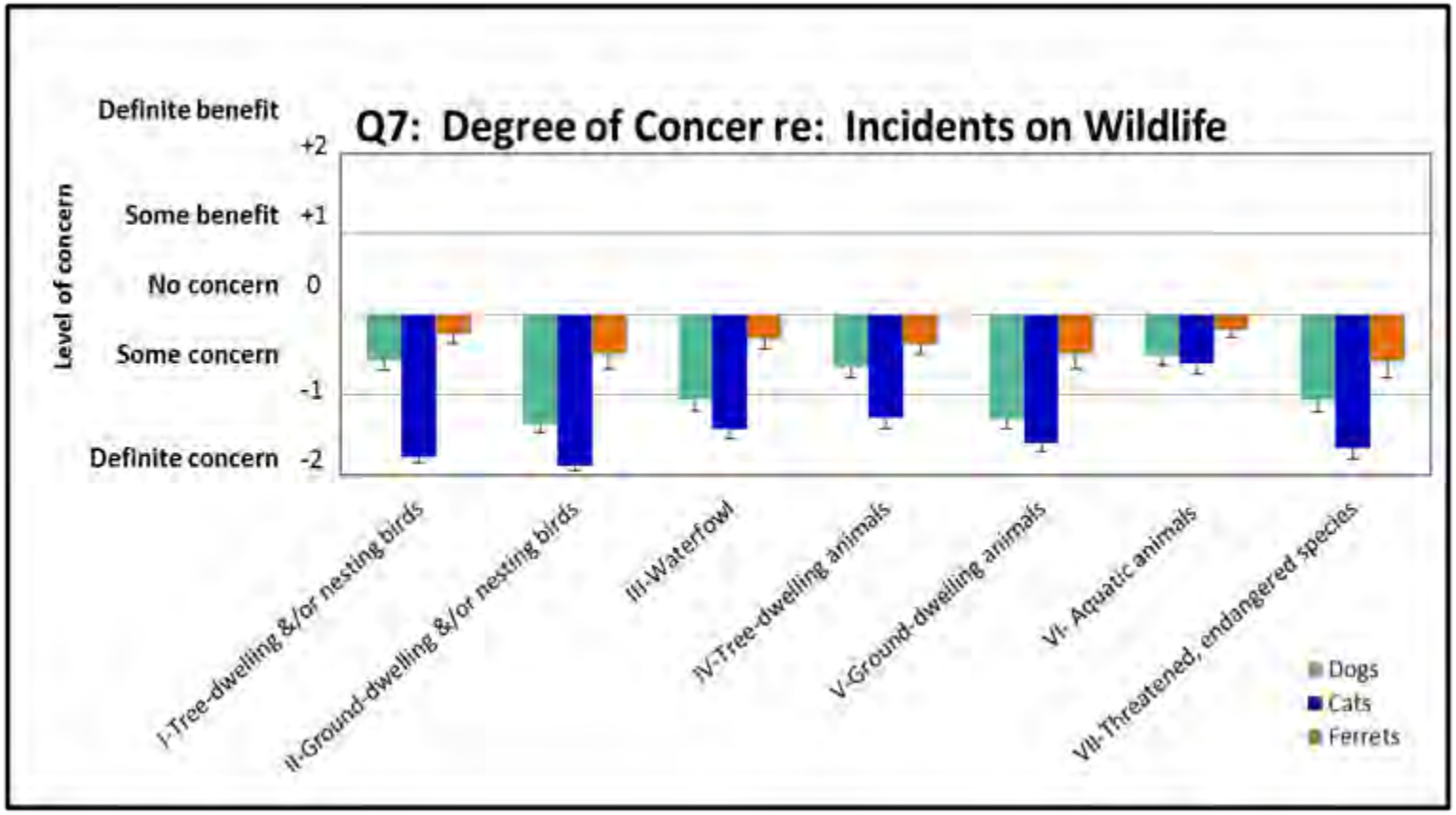

Q5: Average Number of Dogs, Cats, Ferrets per Sighting
Number of animals per sighting
4.0
3.0
2.0
1.0
0.0
I- Stray-urban/suburban
II- Stray- rural/agricultural
III- Stray-parks/recreational areas
IV-Stray-wild lands
V-Free-living (surviving >1week)
VI-Feral (breeding)
VII-Naturalized
Dogs
Cats
Ferrets

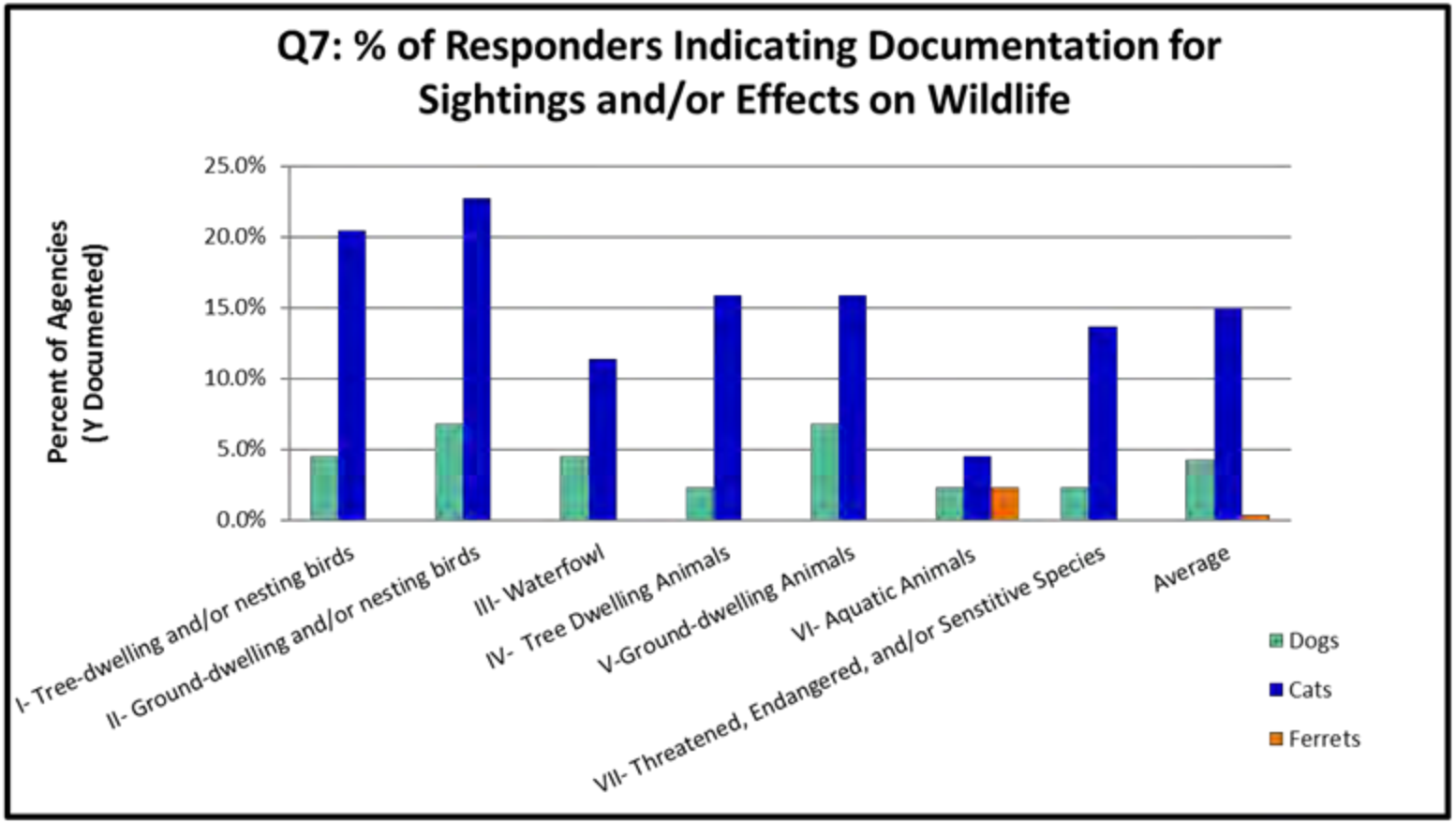

Q6: Existence (Sightings) of Unconfined Dogs, Cats, Ferrets
Existence rating
Definitely exists now
Previously existed
Reported to exist
Probably does NOT exist
Definitely does NOT exist
4
3
2
1
0
I- Stray-urban/suburban
II- Stray- rural/agricultural
III- Stray-parks/recreational areas
IV-Stray-wild lands
V-Free-living (surviving >1week)
VI-Feral (breeding)
VII-Naturalized
Dogs
Cats
Ferrets


Q6: Degree of Concern re: Existence of Unconfined Dogs, Cats, Ferrets
Level of Concern
Definite benefit +2
Some benefit +1
No concern 0
Some concern -1
Definite concern -2
I- Stray-urban/suburban
II- Stray- rural/agricultural
III- Stray-parks/recreational areas
IV-Stray-wild lands
V-Free-living (surviving >1week)
VI-Feral (breeding)
VII-Naturalized
Dogs
Cats
Ferrets


Q6: % Responders Indicating Documentation for Sightings and/or Effects Unconfined Animal Populations
Percent of Agencies (Y Documented)
35.0%
30.0%
25.0%
20.0%
15.0%
10.0%
5.0%
0.0%
I- Stray Animals- Urban/Suburban
II- Stray Animals- rural/agricultural
III- Stray Animals- Parks & recreational areas
IV- Stray Animals- Wild lands
V-Free-living animals (surviving >1week)
VI-Feral (breeding) animals
VII- Naturalized Animals
Average
Dogs
Cats
Ferrets


Q7: Existence of Incidents from Dogs, Cats, Ferrets on Wildlife
Existence Rating Average
Definitely exists now
Previously existed
Reported to exist
Probably does NOT exist
Definitely does NOT exist
4
3
2
1
0
I-Tree-dwelling &/or nesting birds
II-Ground-dwelling &/or nesting birds
III-Waterfowl
IV-Tree-dwelling animals
V-Ground-dwelling animals
VI- Aquatic animals
VII-Threatened, endangered species
Dogs
Cats
Ferrets


Q7: Degree of Concer re: Incidents on Wildlife
Level of concern
Definite benefit
Some benefit
No concern
Some concern
Definite concern
+2
+1
0
-1
-2
I-Tree-dwelling &/or nesting birds
II-Ground-dwelling &/or nesting birds
III-Waterfowl
IV-Tree-dwelling animals
V-Ground-dwelling animals
VI- Aquatic animals
VII-Threatened, endangered species
Dogs
Cats
Ferrets


Q7: % of Responders Indicating Documentation for Sightings and/or Effects on Wildlife
Percent of Agencies (Y Documented)
25.0%
20.0%
15.0%
10.0%
5.0%
0.0%
I- Tree-dwelling and/or nesting birds
II- Ground-dwelling and/or nesting birds
III- Waterfowl
IV- Tree Dwelling Animals
V-Ground-dwelling Animals
VI- Aquatic Animals
VII- Threatened, Endangered, and/or Senstitive Species
Average
Dogs
Cats
Ferrets

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ATTACHMENT D

SURVEY RESPONSE FROM NEW YORK STATE

The **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources** responded to the Survey. The NY State survey was filled out by an agency Wildlife Biologist Level II. The NY agency responder provided the following ratings and comments to this Survey:

Question 5: Animal Sightings

Please identify SIGHTINGS of UNCONFINED ANIMALS in your jurisdiction.

RATING: ***"Animals have been seen…"***

0 Never
1 Historically [not in past 10 years]
2 Rarely [<1 time per year]
3 Commonly [>1 time per year]
4 Frequently [>5 times per month]
5 Unknown

Where appropriate, please add AVERAGE NUMBER OF ANIMALS PER SIGHTING and provide EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT RATINGS (Attach to Survey)

SIGHTINGS		ANIMAL					
		Dogs		Cats		Ferrets	
		Rating	# per sighting	Rating	# per sighting	Rating	# per sighting
I	Stray animals - urban/suburban	3		4		2	
II	Stray animals - rural/agricultural	3		4		2	
III	Stray animals - parks & recreational areas	3		4		2	
IV	Stray animals - wild lands	3		4		2	
V	Free-living animals (surviving >1 week)	3		4		1	
VI	Feral (breeding) animals	3		4		1	
VII	Naturalized animals	5		5		5	

Comments: Please provide clarification and details, as necessary.

I am commenting from a statewide perspective and it is not possible to list numbers per sighting. My information comes from field biologists and is anecdotal rather than part of active surveillance.

Question 6: Sightings of Unconfined Animals
Please identify Sightings of Unconfined Animals in your jurisdiction.

RATING: ***"Unconfined animals…"***

0 Definitely do not exist
1 Probably do not exist
2 Reported to exist
3 Previously existed, does not exist now
4 Definitely exists now

Please note also whether the animals' existence is *documented* (**Y**) or *undocumented* (**N**).

EFFECTS: ***For RATINGS 2 through 4, please also rate effects:***

A No concern
B Some concern
C Definitely a concern
D Some benefit
E Definitely a benefit
F Don't know
G No opinion

For "documented" RATINGS, please provide EVIDENCE (attach to survey).

SIGHTINGS		ANIMAL					
		Dogs		Cats		Ferrets	
		Rating	Effect	Rating	Effect	Rating	Effect
I	Stray animals - urban/suburban	2 ◉Y ○N	C	2 ◉Y ○N	C	1 ○Y ◉N	C
II	Stray animals - rural/agricultural	2 ◉Y ○N	C	2 ◉Y ○N	C	1 ○Y ◉N	C
III	Stray animals - parks & recreational areas	2 ◉Y ○N	C	2 ◉Y ○N	C	1 ○Y ◉N	C
IV	Stray animals - wild lands	2 ◉Y ○N	C	2 ◉Y ○N	C	1 ○Y ◉N	C
V	Free-living animals (surviving >1 week)	2 ◉Y ○N	C	2 ◉Y ○N	C	1 ○Y ◉N	C
VI	Feral (breeding) animals	2 ◉Y ○N	C	2 ◉Y ○N	C	1 ○Y ◉N	C
VII	Naturalized animals	2 ◉Y ○N	C	2 ◉Y ○N	C	1 ○Y ◉N	C

Comments: Please describe documentation.

The presence of introduced or escaped domestic or exotic mammals is a direct threat to the indigenous fish and wildlife resources of the state. These feral animals present a threat of rabies, directly prey on the fish and wildlife of the state and disrupt the balance of the native ecosystems. For all practical purposes, these feral animals should be classified as invasive species.

Question 7: Effects on Wildlife
Please identify Sightings of Unconfined Animals in your jurisdiction.

RATING: ***"Unconfined animals…"***

0 Definitely do not exist
1 Probably do not exist
2 Reported to exist
3 Previously existed, does not exist now
4 Definitely exists now

Please note also whether the animals' existence is *documented* (**Y**) or *undocumented* (**N**).

EFFECTS: ***For RATINGS 2 through 4, please also rate effects:***

A No concern
B Some concern
C Definitely a concern
D Some benefit
E Definitely a benefit
F Don't know
G No opinion

For "documented" RATINGS, please provide EVIDENCE (attach to survey).

ANIMAL GROUP		ANIMAL					
		Dogs		Cats		Ferrets	
		Rating	Effect	Rating	Effect	Rating	Effect
I	Tree-dwelling and/or -nesting birds	2 ○Y ◉N	C	2 ○Y ◉N	C	1 ○Y ◉N	B
II	Ground-dwelling and/or -nesting birds	2 ○Y ◉N	C	2 ○Y ◉N	C	1 ○Y ◉N	B
III	Waterfowl	2 ○Y ◉N	C	2 ○Y ◉N	C	1 ○Y ◉N	B
IV	Tree-dwelling animals	2 ○Y ◉N	C	2 ○Y ◉N	C	1 ○Y ◉N	B
V	Ground-dwelling animals	2 ○Y ◉N	C	2 ○Y ◉N	C	1 ○Y ◉N	B
VI	Aquatic animals	1 ○Y ◉N	B	1 ○Y ◉N	B	1 ○Y ◉N	B
VII	Threatened, Endangered, and/or Sensitive species	2 ○Y ◉N	C	2 ○Y ◉N	C	1 ○Y ◉N	B
VIII	Other:	○Y ○N		○Y ○N		○Y ○N	
IX	Other:	○Y ○N		○Y ○N		○Y ○N	

Comments: Please describe documentation. I do not have this type of information because the agency does not do the type of surveillance that would yield such results. However, feral animals are an introduced source of predation to native wildlife.

The final question was: **"Do you have any SPECIAL CONCERNS regarding any of these three animals in your jurisdiction?"** to which the responded provided the following comments regarding dogs and cats:

> I noted above, the health of any ecosystem is threatened by any feral animal. In the case of dogs and cats, these animals directly kill and injure countless numbers of small mammals and birds up to and including white-tailed deer. If pesticides were the cause of the numbers of wild animals and birds injured or killed each year by domestic and feral house cats, the public would demand action to halt this destruction. However, when there is direct evidence of such wanton waste by domestic and feral house cats, the cat-lovers effectively threaten the elected officials from taking any actions to rid the environment of these introduced predators.

=//=

From:	E Adams
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	COMMENTS: Amendments to Article 11 and 161 (For 21Jan15 HEARING) SEASEARCH
Date:	Tuesday, January 20, 2015 5:03:41 PM
Attachments:	COMMENTS - LTR to NYC DOCKET HEARING re Environment 20Jan15.pdf
Importance:	High
Sensitivity:	Confidential

Dear Chairperson:

RE: Notice of Public Hearing and Opportunity to Comment on Proposed Amendments to Articles 11 and 161 of the New York City Health Code: Hearing on January 21, 2015

Attached please find my COMMENTS. These have also been mailed in hardcopy by Priority Express Mail (USPS) to arrive tomorrow (Jan 21).

Sincerely,

M. Scott Sinclair
Senior Wildlife Biologist
SeaSearch Biological Surveys
St. David, AZ

From:	David Gaines
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Written comments on proposed amendments to Health Code sec. 161.01 & 11.29
Date:	Tuesday, January 20, 2015 5:14:45 PM
Attachments:	2015-01-21 NYC Board of Health AFA Written Comments with Exhibits.pdf

---

Hello -

Attached is a PDF file containing the American Ferret Association's written comments in support of the proposed amendments to the NYC Health Code sections 161.01 & 11.29.

Sincerely yours,
David Gaines
Director, Legal & Legislative Affairs Committee
American Ferret Association, Inc.

WRITTEN COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

SECTIONS 161.01 AND 11.29

OF THE NEW YORK CITY HEALTH CODE

JANUARY 21, 2015

David Gaines

Director, Legal & Legislative Affairs Committee

American Ferret Association, Inc.

I'd like to thank the Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene for providing the American Ferret Association (an entirely volunteer, nonprofit organization that promotes the interests of both ferrets and ferret enthusiasts) this opportunity to comment on behalf of our members on the proposed amendments to sections 161.01 and 11.29 of the Health Code.

The AFA strongly supports the amendments as written. They reflect the growing acceptance in the United States of ferrets as domestic companion animals, animals that form bonds with their human caretakers that are as strong as those of cats and dogs. This acceptance is evidenced not only by the routine appearance of large sections devoted to ferret housing, food & accessories in retail pet stores across the country, but by the reversal of ferret bans in 2004 in Minneapolis, Minnesota and in 2005 in Dallas, Texas and Columbia, Missouri, as well as the current pending addition of ferrets to the District of Columbia's list of permitted animals. In 40 of the 48 states where ferrets are permitted, they have never NOT been permitted. Not one state that has rescinded a ban on ferrets has ever reversed that decision. Most recently, the Charter Township of Hampton, Michigan deleted ferrets from its list of prohibited animals in 2014. Only one newly enacted ban on ferrets – in Rushford Village, Minnesota in 2013 – has come to our attention, and their revised ordinance categorizes the ferret as a rodent, which is, unfortunately, typical of the type of misinformation and lack of knowledge we are working hard to address nationwide. Interestingly, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association's *U.S. Pet Ownership & Demographics Sourcebook*, there were 334,000 households with ferrets in 2012 as opposed to 505,000 in 2007. I attribute this 34% drop to a combination of the fading away of the so-called “ferret fad” brought on by movies such as *Along Came Polly* and celebrities such as Paris Hilton along with increased awareness on the part of the general public of the special and unique requirements of having a ferret as part of one's family – requirements which mean that ferrets are not for everyone. A

trend towards fewer ferrets being taken care of by better educated people should be taken as a positive sign by those concerned with ferret legalization in New York City.

Turning specifically to New York City, there are four main areas of concern regarding the adoption of these amendments that we've seen from local officials and residents, and I'll address each area separately:

(1) **Ferrets are wild animals.**

Ferrets (*mustela putorious furo*) do not and cannot live in the wild. They are thoroughly domesticated and have been for centuries. Every ferret you will ever see in the United States was either born in a ferret breeding facility that provides ferrets to retail pet stores or to medical laboratories, or at a small specialty breeder, or was born to a jill (the term for a female ferret) that came from a breeder. This is a consensus view in the veterinary, zoological, and animal welfare communities and should be a complete non-issue at this point. The ASPCA **[Exhibit A]**, American Veterinary Medical Association, American Museum of Natural History, Humane Society of the United States **[Exhibit B]**, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the International Species Information System all classify the ferret as a domesticated animal. State, county, and municipal codes and ordinances throughout the United States either list ferrets along with dogs and cats as permitted domestic animals or specifically exclude them from lists of prohibited wildlife that include family *mustelidae*. For example, Monroe County, Florida - home to Everglades National Park and Key West as well as three national wildlife refuges and a national deer refuge, and arguably one of the most ecologically sensitive localities in the United States – specifically lists ferrets within its definition of "domesticated companion animals."

(2) **Ferrets are dangerous animals and vicious biters prone to cause harm to people**.

All mammals are capable of biting and do so under duress, when abused, or through poor or nonexistent behavior management. There is no evidence that ferrets as a species are prone to cause harm, and the cases of ferret bites that do occur are far fewer in number – both in aggregate and in proportion to their numbers – than those cases involving dogs and cats. For example, when testifying on behalf of the ASPCA in June 1999 against the adoption of the Board's current ferret prohibition, Lisa Weisberg noted that in 1998 (the last year ferrets were permitted in the City) there were, according to the Board's own records, 7,882 reported bites in the City by dogs, cats, or ferrets. 7,879 of these, or 99.96%, were by dogs or cats. Of course every such incident needs to be taken seriously, and the AFA as well as all other ferret organizations work hard to educate the public about the necessity of proper behavioral training and close supervision so that these unfortunate incidents are prevented from occurring. As AFA members and all people with significant ferret experience know, ferrets are bred specifically to be docile, friendly, playful, cooperative companion animals and, indeed, it is their legendary playfulness and clown-like behavior that are not only the main source of their appeal as companion animals, but are characteristic of the species.

(3) **Ferrets are liable to escape into neighboring dwellings and attack people**.

While it's true that ferrets are by nature curious and determined explorers, the danger of them escaping *en masse* and terrorizing apartment buildings, duplexes, and rowhouses is a tremendous exaggeration. If ferrets were inclined as a species to do that, there would be reports of this significant activity from the large cities where ferrets are permitted; that is to say, all of them outside of California, Hawai'i, and the District of Columbia. The fact is that, in our experience,

ferrets do escape from their homes, as do other cats and dogs, but it is not something that happens very often. We occasionally are made aware of reports of ferrets trapped in walls or laundry exhaust pipes, or abandoned in apartments by thoughtless former tenants, and the resolution in virtually every case is a sad one for the frightened or confused ferret but with no contact at all with neighboring humans, let alone injuries. Ferrets who escape from their homes due to owner carelessness will either try to play with any human they encounter or will simply be confused and wander around curiously.

(4) **Ferrets increase the risk of humans getting rabies**.

While it's true that, like all mammals, ferrets are susceptible to the rabies virus, the incidence of ferrets in the United States contracting it is surpassingly low – less than 50 reported cases nationwide since 1950 – and there is not one reported case on record of ferret-to-human rabies transmission in this country. Nevertheless, as the proposed amendment to section 11.29 makes clear, there is a USDA-approved rabies vaccine specifically for ferrets and the AFA supports its required use, as indicated in our general position statement on ferret legalization which I've submitted as part of our written testimony **[Exhibit C]**.

According to the most recent US Census Bureau estimates, 84.3% of the USA's 319 million citizens live in places where they're permitted to choose a ferret as their companion animal. If you take out the one state of California, that figure rises to 96.1%. If this were an election or an opinion poll, we would call that an overwhelming landslide. We are ordinary people who are just like the people who have cats, dogs, rabbits, and guinea pigs in their homes. It's true that there are fewer of us, but that does not mean we're weird or deranged, and it certainly doesn't mean that we deserve to be discriminated against. We

agree with the many media accounts that describe this issue as “silly.” Yes, it's silly that a ferret is wild and dangerous in the Bronx and Queens but then magically becomes no more of a concern than a gerbil as soon as one steps into Yonkers or Nassau County. New York City residents who want nothing more than to be allowed to bring the companion animal of their choice home with them deserve to have that opportunity.

We urge you to adopt these two amendments as written and I thank you for your time and your patience.

AFA Written Comments
Exhibit A p.1

Published on *ASPCA* (https://www.aspca.org)

Species Suitable to be Companion Animals

Species suitable to be companion animals include dogs, cats, horses, rabbits, ferrets, birds [1], guinea pigs and select other small mammals, small reptiles and fish. Where they may be kept legally and responsibly, domestic-bred farm animals can also be maintained as companions. The ASPCA is opposed to the keeping of wild animals [2] as well as wild/domestic hybrids [3].

Source URL: https://www.aspca.org/about-us/aspca-policy-and-position-statements/species-suitable-to-be-companion-animals

Links:
[1] https://www.aspca.org/about-us/aspca-policy-and-position-statements/position-statement-on-birds-as-pets
[2] https://www.aspca.org/about-us/aspca-policy-and-position-statements/wild-animals-as-pets
[3] https://www.aspca.org/about-us/aspca-policy-and-position-statements/position-statements-on-hybrids-as-pets

AFA Written Comments
Exhibit A p.2

Published on *ASPCA* (https://www.aspca.org)

Human/Companion Animal Bond

The ASPCA recognizes the legitimacy of the human/companion animal bond. It is the ASPCA's belief that the keeping of appropriate, carefully maintained pets is fully justified, and that both humans and animals benefit from the relationship.

Source URL: https://www.aspca.org/about-us/aspca-policy-and-position-statements/humancompanion-animal-bond

AFA Written Comments
Exhibit B p. 1

MARCH 12, 2010

Is a Ferret Right for You?

The Humane Society of the United States

Domestic ferrets have become more popular as pets in recent years and can be kept legally as pets in most states, but check state and local laws for possible restrictions. As with any companion animal, these furry creatures deserve lifelong, responsible homes and caretakers.

If you're thinking of getting a ferret, here are some things to keep in mind before taking steps to add a ferret to your family.

Don't shop: Adopt

The HSUS believes that ferrets, like other companion animals, should not be bred for commercial purposes or sold in retail pet stores. If you are thinking of adding a ferret to your family, see if an animal shelter or rescue group near you has any ferrets for adoption.

Special considerations

Ferrets are very different from more traditional companion animals such as dogs and cats. They are marketed by the pet industry as "unusual," but individuals considering adopting a ferret should be wary of the industry's claims that unusual pets are easy to care for. Ferrets require a high level of commitment to be cared for responsibly and humanely; individuals not prepared or able to make such a commitment should not keep ferrets as pets.

Responsible care

Ferrets have sharp teeth and occasionally bite when startled, excited, or handled improperly. There have even been incidents when small children have been seriously injured by ferret bites. Children, particularly infants, should never be left unsupervised with ferrets (or with any other companion animal).

Like all mammals, ferrets can carry and transmit rabies. Therefore, all ferrets should be vaccinated against this fatal viral disease

AFA written comments
Exhibit B p.2

Needs and habits

Keeping ferrets humanely may be a challenge for individuals who are unfamiliar with their needs and habits. Ferrets sleep much of the time, but when awake are both curious and highly active.

They should not be confined to a cage at all times, yet need close supervision when allowed out of their enclosures. It is usually necessary to take special measures to "ferret-proof" homes where ferrets are kept to ensure their safety.

Like other companion animals, ferrets require periodic veterinary check-ups and veterinary care when needed. Be sure to find a veterinarian in your community who is experienced with ferret care.

Sterilization

Pet ferrets must be spayed or neutered to prevent them from adding to the numbers of unwanted and homeless ferrets in need of shelter and rescue. Sterilization is particularly important for female ferrets, who can contract a disease called fatal aplastic anemia.

Stinky?

To put it kindly, ferrets don't always come up smelling like roses. A ferret's sebaceous glands, which are used to mark territory, secrete oil with a natural musky odor, and the animal's anal scent glands can spray just like a skunk's.

AFA Written Comments Exhibit C

AMERICAN FERRET ASSOCIATION, INC. (AFA)

POSITION STATEMENT ON FERRET LEGALIZATION

Despite a steady, nationwide increase in the acceptance of ferrets as household companion animals over the last twenty-five years – mainly due to tireless educational and other outreach efforts on the part of ferret advocates and veterinarians specializing in small mammal medicine – several legal prohibitions remain. The principal jurisdictions where possession of ferrets remains prohibited by law as of June 2014 are the states of California and Hawai'i, the District of Columbia, and the commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The largest U.S. cities where possession of ferrets remains prohibited by law are New York City NY, Salt Lake City UT, and Allentown PA. A decreasing number of smaller cities and towns across the United States also maintains prohibitions on ferrets. Enforcement of these ferret bans is inconsistent and ranges from vigilant to rare.

In all of these cases, the legal ban on the domestic ferret (*mustela putorius furo*) is the result of a misclassification of the ferret as either a wild animal, an exotic animal, an animal that is naturally inclined towards harming human beings, an animal naturally inclined towards forming harmful feral colonies, or some combination of all of the above. **This is directly contrary to the long-established consensus within the zoological, veterinary, and animal welfare communities that ferrets are fully domesticated, suitable and appropriate household companion animals, and neither wild nor naturally inclined towards harm.**

- All ferrets sold at retail or adopted through shelters, and most ferrets sold through breeders, are neutered.
- All ferrets sold or available to be adopted through shelters for the purpose of being household companion animals are specifically bred to be docile, friendly, and suitable for co-existence with human beings and cannot survive away from human caretaking for more than a brief time.
- No evidence exists of any feral colony of ferrets ever being formed within the United States.
- There has not been a single reported case in the United States of ferret-to-human rabies transmission since such recordkeeping began in 1951, and a USDA-approved rabies vaccine for ferrets has been available since 1992.
- Like all mammals, ferrets are capable of biting but do so at a significantly lower rate than cats and dogs.

Therefore, in keeping with its core mission of promoting, protecting, and providing information on the domestic ferret, the AFA:

- **supports the repeal of all legal prohibitions against maintaining the domestic ferret as a household companion animal**
- **opposes laws requiring places where ferrets are sold to display signs warning people of their alleged "natural inclination to do harm" and supports the repeal of such laws that currently exist**
- **opposes the classification of *mustela putorius furo* as a wild, exotic, or dangerous animal - a classification contradicted by both science and history**
- **supports the position of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) that ferrets are suitable companion animals**
- **supports reasonable restrictions that are no more burdensome than similar restrictions applied to dogs and cats are, such as low cost licensing (as is commonly required for dogs and cats) and required rabies vaccinations for ferrets aged four months and older**

From:	Emily Shearon
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Ferret support
Date:	Tuesday, January 20, 2015 6:23:25 PM

I have been a ferret owner for 15 years. Ferrets are friendly and docile creatures perfectly suited to apartment living.

Thank you!

Emily

From:	milmalmik4@aol.com
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Legalize ferrets in NYC
Date:	Tuesday, January 20, 2015 6:33:48 PM

Hello,

I am a very proud ferret owner! They are docile domesticated pets that are suitable to live in homes, apartments, condos or any dwelling a dog or a cat would live. Ferrets are not rodents but are closer to having a dog or cat. They are sweet and loving and playful and friendly. I love my ferrets as though they were my children. I could never feel this way about a rodent. I believe it is every New Yorkers right to experience the love of a ferret! I would recommend a ferret as a pet over any other animal! I know there are many who agree with me! I hope that you will also spend some time with a ferret, you will fall in love!

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Emanuela Costea
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	ferrets
Date:	Wednesday, January 21, 2015 11:43:39 AM

I don't even live in the US, but I still think that every voice does count. I write from Finland, from a family with 3 ferrets, and I can say that ferrets are amazing companions - they are loving, caring, smart, playful, and develop strong bonds and friendships. They don't deserve to be massproduced and sold in petstores, being treated as objects (just like ANY other animal), and ending up in unsuitable homes just to be thrown in a shelter because the people that adopted them were not educated on the topic or simply didn't know how to handle them. But people that live there should have the right to choose the companion that they want and live peacefully with their ferrets.

Having a ferret is like having a 2 year old child that never grows older. That is the level or responsibility, but also, that is the bond that is created. It's hard to even explain it in words, but would you like to see babies sold in a baby store? Separated from their mom at very young age, and craving love and attention? And here I speak in the voice of all petstore animals that are turned into accessories. It's cruel and heartless. Think about it. The ferret mills are torture, the animals are kept in terrible conditions, and their only purpose in life is to breed. Once they cannot breed, they get disposed of. A moneymaking machine having innocent lives as a product. And yet it is still allowed. Why don't we do the same with people? Because the laws don't allow us. And because the life of an animal is inferior that a human life in the eyes of many. And that needs to change. A life is a life, and it values the same.

We had the opportunity to move from Europe in a ferret-ban state in the US for work purposes, and we refused the opportunity because of this. Because I don't want to live in a place where my friendships and bonds are not a matter of my choice but a matter of legislation. I would not give up my ferrets for anything in the world, and I don't think any other person should be forced to do so. They are domestic animals, that live in harmony with people and deserve to receive the attention and respect. Just a few thoughts from a place where animals are not sold in petshops, and ferrets are loved and welcomed.

From:	Mike Bober
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	PIJAC comments re proposed Amendments to Articles 11 and 161 of New York City Health Code
Date:	Wednesday, January 21, 2015 11:45:14 AM
Attachments:	PIJAC comments re NYC Department of Health Amendments re Ferrets and Box Dryers 1 21 15.doc

Good morning,

Please accept the attached document as comments from the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council regarding two of the proposed amendments being discussed at today's hearing. We at PIJAC are proud to support the amendment repealing the prohibition on the keeping of ferrets within New York City. We also have concerns regarding the proposed amendment banning the use of box dryers by professional groomers within the city. We would be happy to discuss both of these issues in greater detail at your convenience and would gladly answer any additional questions you may have as you consider these amendments further.

Sincerely,

Mike Bober

Mike Bober
Executive Vice President
Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council
P: 202.452.1525 ext. 1060
F: 202.452.1516
C: 202.309.3980
mbober@pijac.org

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PET INDUSTRY JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL
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COMMENTARY OF THE PET INDUSTRY JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE REGARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES 11 AND 161 OF THE NEW YORK CITY HEALTH CODE

January 21, 2015

Dear Dr. Bassett,

The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) appreciates the opportunity to offer the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene our views regarding the proposed amendments to the city's health code under consideration today. As the country's largest pet trade association, representing the interests of all segments of the pet industry throughout the United States, PIJAC counts among its members national associations, organizations, corporations and individuals involved in the commercial pet trade. More specifically, PIJAC represents the interests of pet stores, distributors, pet supply manufacturers, breeders, retailers and pet owners throughout New York and across the United States.

We are specifically interested today in two of the proposed amendments:

1. We support the removal of the domestic ferret from the city's list of prohibited animals, and
2. We oppose the prohibition on the use of box dryers by pet groomers.

On the subject of ferret legalization, we are strongly in support of the statements made by Mayor de Blasio and others within the city's administration that indicate support for this action. This represents a clear move away from a policy which runs counter to those of forty-eight states, as well as most counties and municipalities across the country, and it demonstrates a consideration of scientific advances in the years since the ban was first implemented.

When initially implemented, the city's ban on ferrets ostensibly sought to address three major concerns: temperament and biting, transmission of rabies, and issues related to relinquishment and release into the wild. As you have no doubt found in your review of the subject, the incidence of ferret bites is relatively infrequent, whether looked at as a raw number or as a percentage of the country's total ferret population. Concerns about ferret temperament are overstated, due no doubt to their relative unfamiliarity when compared to dogs and cats. In truth, all three of these carnivorous species make excellent pets when properly cared for.

Concerns regarding rabies transmission should also be allayed thanks to demonstrated success in the development and widespread availability of vaccinations for ferrets. This, coupled with the increased access to veterinary care that ferret owners will be able to provide their pets when ownership is legal, suggests that legalization is actually the more responsible approach to ferrets in terms of public health.

Finally, there is the issue of relinquishment and/or release. Almost every ferret raised commercially is spayed or neutered prior to sale. This is standard practice throughout the industry, including at Marshall Ferrets (the largest producer of ferrets) which is based in North Rose, New York. As a result, there is next to no chance of ferrets establishing any kind of feral population in the city, and the impact of relinquishments on shelters is minimal.

We are aware of anecdotal evidence of ferrets being sold within the five boroughs. And, given the prevalence of ferret food and products in pet stores throughout the city, it is clear that there are residents currently keeping these animals safely and responsibly. Through this amendment, they will now be able to do so legally, as well.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about other concerns that may arise regarding the repeal of the prohibition on ferret-keeping. We would be happy to provide data, studies, or other materials to aid you in your decision-making.
===

With regard to box dryers, we take issue with the blanket prohibition on their use by professional groomers within the city. This is a one-size-fits-all approach to a technology that allows groomers to more safely and rapidly dry restive animals and those from larger breeds. While New York City code defines all dogs as "small animals," we know that is simply not the case. There are some breeds of dogs that are simply too large or too unwieldy to effectively dry them using handheld dryers or by air-drying. As with any technology, caution and education are necessities when using box dryers.

If the intent of this amendment is to improve the safety of the grooming experience for pets and groomers alike, we would submit that prohibiting the technology does nothing to accomplish this. Instead, we would be happy to put you in contact with professional groomers, grooming educators and/or grooming associations to discuss the recommended safeguards when using box dryers. However we simply cannot support the amendment as currently written.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Mike Bober
Executive Vice President, PIJAC

From:	Emanuela Costea
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	ferrets
Date:	Wednesday, January 21, 2015 11:43:39 AM

I don't even live in the US, but I still think that every voice does count. I write from Finland, from a family with 3 ferrets, and I can say that ferrets are amazing companions - they are loving, caring, smart, playful, and develop strong bonds and friendships. They don't deserve to be massproduced and sold in petstores, being treated as objects (just like ANY other animal), and ending up in unsuitable homes just to be thrown in a shelter because the people that adopted them were not educated on the topic or simply didn't know how to handle them. But people that live there should have the right to choose the companion that they want and live peacefully with their ferrets.

Having a ferret is like having a 2 year old child that never grows older. That is the level or responsibility, but also, that is the bond that is created. It's hard to even explain it in words, but would you like to see babies sold in a baby store? Separated from their mom at very young age, and craving love and attention? And here I speak in the voice of all petstore animals that are turned into accessories. It's cruel and heartless. Think about it. The ferret mills are torture, the animals are kept in terrible conditions, and their only purpose in life is to breed. Once they cannot breed, they get disposed of. A moneymaking machine having innocent lives as a product. And yet it is still allowed. Why don't we do the same with people? Because the laws don't allow us. And because the life of an animal is inferior that a human life in the eyes of many. And that needs to change. A life is a life, and it values the same.

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From:	felix suarez
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Ferrets
Date:	Wednesday, January 21, 2015 11:48:21 AM

Hello my name is Avery Ziegler I own 2 ferrets and love them very much. But there is so many that need help and to be rescued from awful owners and even worst pet stores. Many employees at pet stores do not know how to care properly for most animals including ferrets ferrets are not an easy animal to take care of they need a bunch of time out of the cage and they need a very proper diet I believe that ferrets should be legalized because they are truly amazing animals but they are only good for the proper home. I believe if you were to legalize them but not in pet stores that that would help them be properly cared for because going through a rescue the rescue will check if you have a big enough cage and that you know how to properly care for the ferrets unlike a pet store that they're just like ok you got the money thank you bye I know that where I'm from a lot of lot of ferrets i dont know the exact number but that are in rescues but hey the pet store still sell them. you know why add to the problem when the problem is already so large thank you for hearing me out and I just wanted you to know this is an epidemic around the world and we don't want your state to be another one. I'm personally from Texas so I don't know if this is going to matter my opinion or not but I would love for you to hear me out thank you.

FAX 341-396-6087

Date: Jan 18. 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs.

Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Signature: Stephanie Mudgett

Printed Name: Stephanie Mudgett

Address (optional): 478 1st Ave, Berlin, NH 03570

E-mail or Telephone: svmudgett@live.com

Additional comments (if any)

I ran a 501c3 NH-licensed ferret shelter from 1993 - 2007. During that time, I would say that approx. 75% of our intakes were from impulse purchases at a pet store, where no education was given on the care/needs/characteristics of the ferret. I would support the amendment to allow spayed/neutered domestic ferrets in NYC. Hower, I do not support pet shop sales of domestic ferrets. If that is passed (pet shop sales), there must be a clause that adds they are >8 weeks of age, as too many ferret mills send their baby ferrets to pet shops at 6 weeks of age.

Thank you for your time & consideration – Stephanie Mudgett

Date: 1-20-2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

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Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Signature: Susan E Jones

Printed Name: Susan E. Jones

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: Pickled-ferret@gmail.com

Additional comments (if any)

Ferrets make great pets!

Date: 1-20-15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Jeffery D. Jones

Printed Name: Jeffery D. Jones

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: jdjones1975@gmail.com

Additional comments (If any)

2015 JAN 20 PM 9:07

Date: 1-20-15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

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Thank you.

Signature: Donna Hazelwood

Printed Name: Donna Hazelwood

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: Jhaze@sbcglobal.net

Additional comments (if any) Ferrets as pets do Less damage to the ecology than Rats more dog bites and damage to people

Jan.19.2015 10:12 Donna Hazelwood 5105830799 PAGE. 1/ 2

2015 JAN 20 PM 2:07

Date: 1-20-15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

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Thank you.

Signature: Janeen Smith

Printed Name: Janeen Smith

Address (optional): Hayward CA 94544

E-mail or Telephone: jumpingfuzzies@yahoo.com

Additional comments (if any) Pet ferrets have less impact on other people than pet dogs.

2015 JAN 21 AM 11:44

December 29, 2014

Mary Travis Bassett, MD, MPH
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11)
Proposed Rules

Dear Commissioner Bassett:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I have owned pet ferrets for many years and they are great pets. They have some special needs that pet stores do not teach customers about, so I do not think they should be sold in pet stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter.

Thank you.

Michael T.S. LaSpada
12-29-14

PLEASE MAKE FERRETS LEAGAL. THEY ARE AMAZING ANIMALS AND ARE HOUSE AND APARTMENT FRIENDLY.

December 29, 2014

Mary Travis Bassett, MD, MPH
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11)
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Thank you.

Barbara S. Podam
12-29-14

Please make ferrets legal in New York.
I have had Ferrets 22 year. Do Not allow Pet
Store To Sell Ferrets

RECEIVED
OFFICE
2015 JAN 2

Date: Jan. 12, 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

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Thank you.

Signature: Barbara Stacey Dow

Printed Name: Barbara Stacey Dow

Address (optional): _____

E-mail or Telephone: bardobrook40@gmail.com

Additional comments (if any)

Allow altered ferrets!
Do Not Allow Pet Store Sales!

Date: -12-15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Timothy S. Weeden

Printed Name: Timothy S. Weeden

Address (optional): 19 ESSEX Street North Reading MA 01864
P.O. Box 342 Middleton, MA 01949

E-mail or Telephone: 978 6643928

Additional comments (if any)

I have owned ferrets for 20 years. They are great Animals for responsible owners. They have their own Special personalities and they have Special bonds with the people who love them. They should not be sold in Pet Stores. I agree to the above Statements, Totally. Please, Do the right thing. Timothy S. Weeden

Lillie Etienne 88G0387
Bedford Hills C. F.
247 Harris Road
Bedford Hills, N.Y. 10507

January 15, 2015

The Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
42-09 28th Street
Long Island City, New York 11101

Re: Death Certificates

Attention: Vital Records

I am requesting a copy of the death certificates for my daughters Lillie Etienne, age 3 at time of death, and Christie Etienne, age 2 at time of death. The death occurred on November 15th, 1985.

If there is a fee for the requested death certificates please notify me and I will promptly comply.

Thank you in advance for your consideration to this manner.

Respectfully submitted,

Lillie Etienne

Lillie Etienne 88G0387
Bedford Hills C.F.
247 Harris Road
Bedford Hills, N.Y. 10507

Sworn to before me this

15th day of January, 2015

NOTARY PUBLIC

Cashiem C. Burroughs
Notary Public
State of New York
Certified in the Bronx County
01BU6270573
Commission Expires 10/22/2016

Date: 1-13-15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

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Thank you.

Signature: Lisa Powell

Printed Name: Lisa Powell

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: PowMJ23@gmail.com

Additional comments (if any)

RECEIVED
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
2015 JAN 21 AM 11:4

Date: January 11, 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs. They also are completely dependent on their "pet-parents" for their survival!

Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Signature: Kimberly J. Morton-Diehl, and family. (AGE 49)

Printed Name: Kimberly J. Morton-Diehl, and family.

Address (optional): 203 Maple Avenue, Dundalk MD. 21222

E-mail or Telephone: (410) 288-6137

Additional comments (if any) PLEASE READ, THANK YOU!

I have personally had to "rescue" a ferret from (or two) pet stores. They should not be "housed" in fish tanks, (and they were) and they were living in filth, their own excrement, pine chips, (bad for their respiratory systems, feet, and eyes ect...) and had urine & feces mixed in with their food. The worst housing for a loving, gentle, fearful baby ferret. He was no doubtedly ill from the above and was taken to get veterinary care. Personell of pet stores are not educated about them and are often afraid. I do not recommend sales at Pet Stores, it makes life worse for ferrets, then, they end-up in shelters. OVERPLEA

OFFICE OF
RECORD

2015 JAN 21

Date: 1/14/2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

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Thank you.

Signature: [illegible]

Printed Name: PATRICK MARQUES

Address (optional): N/A

E-mail or Telephone: N/A

Additional comments (if any)

DMH/OF
RECORD

2015 JAN 21

Date: 1-15-15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Lynnette Meneguz

Printed Name: Lynnette Meneguz

Address (optional): 178 Cambridge Ave, Garfield, NJ 07026

E-mail or ~~Telephone~~: (NONE)

Additional comments (if any)

ferrets make the best pets ever!
I have a dog now, and I sure do love her, but she's not a ferret. Over my animal adoptive life I've had at least 25 ferrets (not at one time) but again, I say - they are the best pets going!

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
JRDS ACT

2015 JAN 21 AM 11:

Date: 1-14-15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Melody L. Hays

Printed Name: Melody L. Hays

Address (optional): 1456 Fairbanks Dr., Hanover, MD 21076

E-mail or Telephone: hays.melody@yahoo.com

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN 21 AM 11:46

Date: JANUARY 14 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

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Thank you.

Signature: Joseph F Sullivan Jr

Printed Name: JOSEPH F SULLIVAN JR

Address (optional): _____

E-mail or Telephone: SULLIVAN.JOSEPH@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Additional comments (if any)

CHAIN STORES SHOULD NOT SELL FERRETS. NEW YORK IS SETTING THEMSELVES UP FOR ABANDON ANIMALS. ONCE THE NOVELTY SETS IN THESE ANIMALS WILL BE ABANDON. PEOPLE DON'T KNOW WHAT IT TAKES TO OWN A FERRET. THEY ARE NOT LIKE A CAT OR DOG. I'VE OWNED FERRETS FOR MANY YEARS.
THANKS FOR LETTING ME VOICE.

2015 JAN 21 AM 11:46

January 5, 2015

Mary Travis Bassett, MD, MPH
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules

Dear Commissioner Bassett:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I don't currently own ferrets but I have in the past and I care about their welfare. When they are handled kindly they are even less likely to bite than a cat or a dog. Ferrets are not a risk to the public.

Pet stores do not educate customers when they sell ferrets, so I do not think they should be sold in stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Tarizville, Pt

COMM/OFF RECORD
2015 JAN 21 AM 11:

Date: Jan. 16, 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Carol J Owens

Printed Name: Carol J. Owens

Address (optional): 917 N Solar Place, Vail Az 85641

E-mail or Telephone: fzylldyqueen@gmail.com

Additional comments (if any)

I am a shelter operator and often find that the ferret owners who are turning in their ferrets recieved misinformation from the pet stores concerning need for more vaccinations, need for really good diets, etc. It is the same everywhere.
Petco is the main problem but other pet stores also contribute to the problem.

Date: Jan. 11, 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

2015 JAN 21 AM 11:40

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

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Thank you.

Signature: Shirley Revelle

Printed Name: Shirley Revelle

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: srevelle@bellsouth.net

2015 JAN 2

Date: 1/12/14

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

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Thank you.

Signature: Linda Y Gallmeyer

Printed Name: Linda Y Gallmeyer

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: ferretgirl@roadrunner.com

Additional comments (if any)

DOHMH
RECEIVED
2015 JAN 21 AM 2:15

Date: 1-13-15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

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Thank you.

Signature: Margo Smith

Printed Name: Margo Smith

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: Pebbles219@roadrunner.com

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN 21 AM 2:15

Date: 1/13/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Shirley A. Gallmeyer

Printed Name: SHIRLEY A. GALLMEYER

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: (716) 835-7227

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN 21 AM 2:16

Date: 1-13-15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature:

Printed Name: Mike Abraham

Address (optional): 6783 Webster Rd, Orchard Park NY

E-mail or Telephone: rivalsi@yahoo.com

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN 21 AM 2:16

Date: 1/13/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Linda Wcisło

Printed Name: LINDA WCISLO

Address (optional): 1506-100th St. Niagara Falls

E-mail or Telephone: _____

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN 21 AM 2:16

Date: 1/13/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Mary Kaca

Printed Name: Mary Kaca

Address (optional): Buffalo NY

E-mail or Telephone:

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN 21 AM 2:16

Date: 1/13/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Paulette Bruyere

Printed Name: PAULETTE BRUYERE

Address (optional): Cheektowaga NY

E-mail or Telephone:

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN 21 AM 2:16

Date: 1/14/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
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Thank you.

Signature: Cathy Pierce

Printed Name: Cathy Pierce

Address (optional): LOCKPORT, N.Y.

E-mail or Telephone:

Additional comments (if any)

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
2015 JAN 21 AM 2:16

Date: 1/15/14

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

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Thank you.

Signature: Sharon DeFelice

Printed Name: Sharon DeFelice

Address (optional): BUFFALO NY

E-mail or Telephone:

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN 21 AM 2:16

Date: 1/14/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Kyle Baker

Printed Name: Kyle Baker

Address (optional): _____

E-mail or Telephone: BUNYLUVR05@YAHOO.COM

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN 21 AM 6:51

Michelle Villagomez
NYC Legislative Director
Government Relations

520 Eighth Avenue, 7Fl.
New York, NY 10018
Michelle.villagomez@aspca.or
212.876.7700 ext. 4550
F. 212.967.7825
www.aspca.org

January 22, 2015

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham center
42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's proposed amendments to Article 11 (Reportable Diseases and Conditions) and Article 161 (Animals) of the New York City Health Code.

Dear Secretary to the Board of Health:

Enclosed please find the comments of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) on the proposed changes to the New York City Health Code.

§ 161.01 (b) (4) – Prohibited Animals

It is the ASPCA's position that ferrets are a species suitable to be companion animals, as long as they receive responsible care. The ASPCA believes that responsible care includes appropriate amounts of nutritious, species appropriate food and clean water to support good health; basic veterinary care including vaccinations and parasite control; necessary grooming and training; exercise; social interaction; diligence in identifying and eliminating hazardous substances and situations; using good judgment when exposing pets to potentially stressful situations; prompt treatment for illness and injury; and in the case of dogs, cats, and ferrets, sterilization before puberty. Depending on species, responsible care also requires the use of collars and identification.

Given the above position, the ASPCA supports the amendment to legalize ferrets, as long as they are properly vaccinated (rabies), sterilized, and restrained when outdoors.

§ 161.21 and §11.29 – Rabies Vaccinations

The ASPCA supports the proposed amendment requiring horse owners to keep current rabies vaccination certificates for the horses they own.

§ 161.15- Cage or Box Dryers

The ASPCA supports the proposed amendment to add a provision to mirror the state bill (which we were advocates for) to prohibit animal grooming facilities from using heating elements in cage or box dryers. This measure would help prevent the accidental death of companion animals placed in the care of boarding/grooming/training facilities. Cage dryers, where pets are left to dry after bathing, attach to cages and can reach temperatures up to 135 degrees. If left unattended, an animal can quickly be placed in grave danger, and heat perhaps appropriate for larger animals has proven fatal to smaller dogs in numerous incidences. Drying techniques and alternatives exist that ensure minimal cost to boarding/grooming/training facilities while still providing much-needed protection for consumers and their pets. We also support the requirement of proof of rabies vaccinations for cats and ferrets by these businesses.

Sincerely,

Michelle Villagomez
NYC Legislative Director
Government Relations

GT GreenbergTraurig

DHMH OFFICE OF RECORDS
2015 JAN 21 PM 3:06

William Mack
Tel (212) 801-2230
mackw@gtlaw.com

January 21, 2015

EMAIL AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL
VIA UPS

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center
42-09 28th Street - CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132
resolutioncomments@health.nyc.gov

Re: Proposed Amendments to Articles 11 and 161 of the New York City Health Code

Dear Members of the Board of Health:

Greenberg Traurig hereby submits the following comments on behalf of PetSmart, Inc. ("PetSmart") in response to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's ("DHMH") Proposed Amendments to Articles 11 and 161 of the New York City Health Code (the "Proposed Rules"). PetSmart has concerns with the Proposed Rules, particularly the changes to Health Code §161.15, which would add grooming parlors and training establishments to the list of establishments required to obtain proof of vaccinations from the owners of dogs when providing services. The rules further add cats to the list of animals for which proof of certain vaccinations must be obtained before providing services. Our concerns mainly focus on enforcement and notification of the rules to the industry.

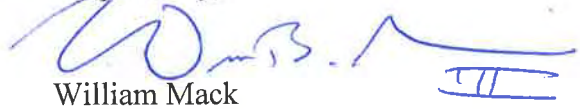
PetSmart is the largest specialty pet retailer of services and solutions for the lifetime needs of pets. PetSmart is an industry leader providing a broad range of pet products and in-store services including pet adoption, boarding, grooming, and training. PetSmart has a strong presence in New York City; in their 5 New York City Stores in Brooklyn, Manhattan and Staten Island, PetSmart employs 210 experienced associates. PetSmart requires rabies vaccinations for pets left in our care, recommends pets be current on other vaccinations, and has disinfection protocols that limit disease transfer in salons. Further, PetSmart is constantly working to determine ways in which it can improve its practices, all in the best interest of pets. PetSmart applauds the DHMH's efforts to protect animals and make New York City a safer place for all pets. However, PetSmart believes that improved enforcement of the existing rules and awareness of new rules, if adopted, should be focus areas moving forward.

Improving enforcement of existing rules requires compliance across all establishments that offer pet services. Otherwise, this creates a confusing environment for customers and an uneven playing field, where some comply and others do not. DHMH seeks to create standards for the pet industry to abide by; in order for the DHMH's policies to be effective, the entire industry must operate by the same rules, and the rules must therefore be enforced.

PetSmart believes that in addition to more even enforcement, the DHMH should raise awareness of the current rules. The rules are not widely known by pet owners, smaller pet services establishments, or local veterinarians. In order to raise awareness of the requirements, the DHMH should include a provision in the rules that mandates that all establishments covered under the rules post the relevant section of rules conspicuously. This way, customers are aware of the rules and know that any establishment that does not request this information is not in compliance with the rules. We also believe that industry notices should be sent out by DHMH to all of its licensees explaining the new rules and its enforcement ramifications.

On behalf of PetSmart, we appreciate the opportunity to submit these comments. We share the DHMH's commitment to the wellbeing of pets and we look forward to continuing to work with DHMH and the City Council to improve the quality of life of all of the City's residents—large and small. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to schedule a meeting. You may also contact my colleague John Mascialino at (212) 801 9355. We welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters further and we are willing to meet with you or members of your staff.

Respectfully,



William Mack
Greenberg Traurig
200 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10166
212 801 2230
mackw@gtlaw.com

cc: Ann Sperling, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Letitia James
Public Advocate for the City of New York

2015 JAN 21 PM 3:06

Dear Ms. James,

New York City, in the past several months, has considered overruling the citywide ban on ferrets as pets as per Section 161.01 of the New York City Health Code. The ban, instituted in 1959 and upheld in 1999, was issued as a public safety precaution and should be continued as such.

The people of New York City should be aware that small children and infants, especially new born, left alone with ferret's outside of a cage and free roaming may lead to severe facial injury, damage to hands and feet, and even death. Although, current data on ferret bites is limited, the documented instances of ferret attacks conclude that these animals are a hazard to infants and young children. There were 452 episodes of ferret bites between1978-1987 in California and the neighboring states of Arizona and Oregon. Ferrets are now illegal as pets in California, the District of Colombia and Hawaii. Additionally, the department of health in Alaska prohibits ferrets from being brought into schools. In Carson City Nevada, it is illegal to own a ferret if you have small children.

Ferrets should not be considered as safe pets in households with infants and toddlers as their behavior can be unpredictable. Ferrets have very sharp teeth and bite, quite often, for no reason. Ferrets need specific training to curb and control behavior. Ferrets need to be caged and never allowed near children that are too young to protect themselves from attack, as biting can be a response to rough play, fear or even loud noises. Ferrets are burrowers, are naturally curious and extremely active. New York City's multiple dwellings are not natural habitats for ferrets and could potentially allow access to other households through holes, hallways, risers and ducts. Additionally, the opportunity to cross breed ferrets with the more aggressive polecat, to meet the possible demand for

purchase as pets, can magnify the problem of unprovoked attacks. Lastly, the possibility of ferrets being abandoned and let into to wild within the city limits is a high probability, causing the possibility of free roaming and feral colonies.

February 1995, the New York City Friends of Ferrets, an unincorporated association of individuals in New York City supported owning ferrets as household pets, brought about a suit against the City of New York challenging the legality of the prohibition against the keeping of ferrets within New York City limits. The ferret owners' equal protection claim was dismissed and the court found a rational relationship between the city's ferret ban and its legitimate interest in protecting human safety.

In conclusion, it is not in the best interest of the city but of those interested only in the fashionable status of ferret ownership and to the benefit of breeders the guise of animal humaneness, to push forward the lifting of the ban on ferrets in New York City, not taking into account the high probability of danger to infants and small children. The lifting of the ban on ferrets would potentially put the city in the position to be held financially responsible in the event of an attack. It is the responsibility of the City of New York to oversee the health and welfare of all it inhabitants not just a select few.

Cordially,
Dr. Millard Bass DO, MPH, SCD

Cc: Mary Basset, Commissioner of the **New York City**
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

DOHMH/OGC
RECEIVED
2015 JAN 21 PM 3:06

Date: 1-15-2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

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Thank you.

Signature: Anthony Mazenis

Printed Name: ANTHONY MAZENIS

Address (optional): 1105 DRIFTWOOD CT ELK GROVE VIL, IL, 60007

E-mail or Telephone: amazenis60@aol.com

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN 21 PM 3:08

Date: 1/21/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Michael Cuomo

Printed Name: MICHAEL P CUOMO

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: coachcos38@yahoo.com

Additional comments (if any)

GOVERNOR'S RECORD
2015 JAN 21 PM

Date: 1/16/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Janis Catalano

Printed Name: Janis Catalano

Address (optional): 304 Whippany Rd, Whippany, NJ 07981

E-mail or Telephone: 973-515-0106

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN 21 PM 4:13

Date: January 14, 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Carol J Kopylec

Printed Name: CAROL KOPYLEC

Address (optional): 38 MIDDLEFIELD RD DURHAM, CT 06422

E-mail or Telephone: _____

Additional comments (if any)

Ferrets are special animals that require attention. As an owner for many years I know this. They become very lonely if they recieve no attention. Having only one they need one on one. They are not like a dog or cat. After awhile people will abandon these animals.

2015 JAN 21 PM 4:13

January 9, 2015

To: NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center
42-09 28th Street—CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

From: Kerrie Rasmussen
1605 Rolling Rock Pl SW
Albuquerque, NM 87121

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a concerned ferret-owning person regarding the upcoming hearing regarding lifting the ban on ferrets in New York City. I have owned thirteen ferrets over the past eighteen years. I find them charming and endearing companions and housemates. I find it hard to comprehend that in this day and age any municipality would ban the species; I realize it's usually due to bad publicity or misinformation.

Ferrets are an "overly" domesticated species. Meaning, they are reliant on their human companions for their basic needs. Cat and dogs have a small chance of surviving on their own should they escape or be abandoned on the streets, a ferret has none. There's an adage in the ferret community, which is too true: if your ferret gets out of your home and is gone more than 48 hours it is probably dead. They have specific needs for daily food and hydration as well as temperature; at 80 degrees they overheat and die.

Looking at the safeguards that are being placed on ownership if the ban is lifted: spaying or neutering as well as rabies vaccinations, chipping and registration (just like a dog or cat) are more than sufficient to protect the well being of ferrets and their human companions alike. I've heard of that there are many ferrets being owned in New York City and California, which also has a ban, illegally. It is sad to think that these sweet and loving animals may not receive the veterinary care they may need because an owner might be afraid to have their animal treated due to a ban on ownership.

I also want to add that in the 1800's New York City was saved by ferrets. When the tenements were being overrun by rats professionals were brought in who worked with ferrets which were trained to get into the walls and exterminate the pests. It would be fitting that the very city that was saved at one time by ferrets would, once again, allow them to live there again legally.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kerrie Rasmussen

Kerrie Rasmussen

2015 JAN 21 PM 4:13

Date: 1-10-15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Tina Johnson

Printed Name: Tina Johnson

Address (optional): /

E-mail or Telephone: 7717319715@bellsouth.net

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN 21 PM 4:16

Date: Jan. 15, 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Susann Thiel

Printed Name: Susann Thiel

Address (optional): 22306 NE 11th Pl, Sammamish, WA 98074

E-mail or Telephone: 607-341-1809
thiel.susann@hotmail.com

Additional comments (if any)

As a ferret owner for more than 30 years, and as a disaster and emergency first responder, I know too well the plight of pet owners who are unwilling to evacuate without their ferrets, and the needless guilt and mental anguish this causes. I know the dilemma of risking arrest or seizure of the pet when it needs medical care. And I have seen the shelters filled to the brim with ferrets whose owners engaged in an impulse purchase at the pet store, or who were given bad or incorrect advice. PetSmart is among the national chains that have voluntarily halted sales of ferret kits for this reason.

2015 JAN 21 PM 4:16

Date: January 15, 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Robin Cornell

Printed Name: Robin Cornell

Address (optional): 7430 W. Burleigh, Milw, WI 53210

E-mail or Telephone: 414-517-8439

Additional comments (if any)

Ferrets are the best pet ever! They are clean and quiet, ideal for people who live in apartments

Do not allow pet stores to sell ferrets. They don't really care about the ferrets.

2015 JAN 21 PM 4:16

Date: 1-14-15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: [illegible]

Printed Name: MARIA CRISTINA KREINBITTL

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: adogn4ferrets@aol.com

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN 21 PM 4:16

Date: 1/15/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Bernadette King

Printed Name: Bernadette King

Address (optional): 35 Runyon Rd, Clifton, NJ 07013

E-mail or Telephone: joeberni@optonline.net

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN 21

Date: 1-11-15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Sandra Mostofizadeh

Printed Name: Sandra Mostofizadeh

Address (optional): _____

E-mail or Telephone: 757 301 8970

Additional comments (if any) Do not sell Ferrets in any Pet Store. Make sure people who want them know how to care for them. They are not like Cats or Dogs. They need different care.

2015 JAN 21 PM 3:05

Date: 1/16/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Lawrence J. Ciolino

Printed Name: Lawrence J Ciolino Jr

Address (optional): 17 Foran Rd Apt 44 Milford CT 06460

E-mail or Telephone: 203-283-0544

Additional comments (if any)

I Have a Ferret Named Fred
And He is a very Loveable
pet And I Think they
Should Be Allowed in New york
He is Also House trained
May you should get a Ferret you
think you will come to Love Him or her

Larry Ciolino

2015 JAN 21 PM 3:05

Date: 1/20/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Jessica Friel

Printed Name: Jessica Friel

Address (optional): 104 W. Church Carlsbad, NM 88220

E-mail or Telephone: csfriel@gmail.com

Additional comments (if any)

ADMINISTRATIVE ...
RECORDS ACCESS OFFICER
2015 JAN 21 PM 4:45

Date: Jan 19/2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Bryce Gombrewicz

Printed Name: Bryce Gombrewicz

Address (optional): 16 Lawrence Ave. Milford CT 06460

E-mail or Telephone: 2038776256

Additional comments (if any)

I have Two Recued ferrets 1 female her name is flower She is smart + gentle she is Happy + plays all day long + Her Best friend is marly He is a male They are wonderful pets. very loving Animals. People need more information about them + their care.

2015 JAN 21 PM

Date: 1/19/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: P Riggert

Printed Name: Patti Riggert

Address (optional): 3306 SE Stephens St., Portland, OR 97214

E-mail or Telephone: barkleysgrandma@hotmail.com

Additional comments (if any)

2015 JAN 21 PM 4:45

Date: 1-20-2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs.

Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Signature: Beth Postorino

Printed Name: Beth Postorino

Address (optional): _____

E-mail or Telephone: BCPostorino@Yahoo.com

Additional comments (if any)

14 Sherbrooke Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106-3838
ferretassn.org

Testimony of L. Vanessa Gruden, Executive Director
Ferret Association of Connecticut, Inc.

Before the New York Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
January 21, 2015

Regarding Amendment to Article 161(b)(4) Prohibited Animals/Removing domestic ferrets from the list of prohibited animals as long as they meet the following requirements: be immunized against rabies; be sterilized to prevent reproduction; and be restrained when outdoors.

Good afternoon. My name is Vanessa Gruden. I'm Executive Director of the Ferret Association of Connecticut, a nonprofit dedicated to the welfare of the domestic ferret.

We provide public education and operate a ferret shelter which has accepted 1,700 ferrets in the last 24 years. I'm nationally known for my expertise in ferret behavior, handling, and sheltering. Please understand when I talk about our organization taking in animals, we don't have staff to completes forms and place the animal in a kennel. I'm the staff person and the shelter is in my home. So I've LIVED with 1,700 different ferrets over the years, and that's experience very few people have.

The original ban of ferrets in New York was instituted when there was no approved rabies vaccine. There's been one for many years now; it's simply time for the City to amend rules to reflect that fact.

The Ferret Association is here to support lifting the ban on altered ferrets. Descenting is not necessary.

Requiring annual rabies vaccinations is reasonable, however we strongly recommend vaccinations BEFORE ANIMALS ARE SOLD, ADOPTED, or TRANSFERRED.

Annual shot policies are nearly impossible to enforce once an animal has entered the public domain. Having a rabies shot done at the appropriate age BEFORE dispersal ensures an animal receives at least one inoculation. Rabies vaccinations are often effective up to three years. CDC guidelines state the initial vaccination should take place at 12 weeks old.

The pet industry claims that maternal antibodies protect kits from rabies, but there are NO studies showing how long that immunity lasts. As it stands, ferrets receive one canine distemper vaccination while at the breeding farm. They should also be receiving two additional distemper boosters.

Ferrets pass through distribution centers then into stores and receive no further shots at either facility. Worse, stores completely fail to inform buyers that any additional inoculations are needed.

Upon intake our shelter protocol is to ask about vaccination history. Ninety-nine percent of owners tell me, in EXACTLY these words, "The pet store told me it had all its shots."

We entreat you not to allow sales of ferrets in the City. Without unbiased information about the pros and cons of keeping ferrets, consumers don't have the chance to make an educated purchase decision. An animal shelter with no profit incentive is far better able to help people learn if a ferret is right for them. A shelter will also offer protection to the animal if the match doesn't work out.

More and more, cities are restricting store sales of ANY animals. Your own department recently approved banning sales of rabbits. Ferrets need equal protection.

Right now New York has a wonderful opportunity to put in place smart, humane regulations that benefit both human residents and little furry ones. Please do.

Thank you for your time.

Exhibit 1

Connecticut Sales and Abandonment Statistics

Pet Store Chains in Connecticut selling ferrets

	# of CT Locations	# of NY Locations (within 20-25 m. of central city)
All Pets Club	4	0
Choice Pets (½ sell pets)	9	6
Petland Discounts	2	92
Petco	24	45
Petsmart* (not currently selling)	11	16

We do not have statistics on the number of animals sold other than at Petco. Managers there have indicated they sell between 2-3 animals per week in Connecticut. This would indicate between 2,400 and 3,700 ferrets are sold in annually from the largest chain operating in our state.

With 45 Petco stores and 92 Petland Discount chains within 20-25 miles of the center of New York, the potential for animal sales is enormous. Our experience with legalization in neighboring states is that there is invariably a large number of initial sales. Animals begin to flood shelters in about a year, as novelty wears. Annually, our statistics show the most abandoned animals are 1-3 years old.

Be aware in some cases (Rhode Island) where the sale of ferrets is banned, stores have been known to circumvent rules by "giving" a free ferret with purchase of cage.

*Petsmart does not currently sell ferrets but they HAVE before and have no restriction from doing so.

Abandonment Statistics

	2014
Ferret Association Accepts 80-100 annually (limited space facility)	83
CT Humane Society Their caveat is that they are limited admission, so their numbers do not reflect the number of ferrets they are asked to accept	34
Various Animal Control (estimated) Approximately 10-12 accept/place ferrets	50
Craigslist Statistics were kept for incidences of sales (117) and number animals being sold/traded/etc.	398
Total identifiable as abandoned/sold	565
Animals abandoned outdoors and never found	unknown
Animals dying within months-1 year of purchase	unknown

Exhibit 2

Vaccination Needs

Rabies

Per Center for Disease Control Rabies Compendium:

- One initial vaccination at 12 weeks of age
- Annual booster vaccination

The pet industry claims maternal antibodies protect the babies. There are no studies that indicate how long that protection period may be; nor how long the kit must ingest colostrum for efficacy. In puppies and kittens, it is known to expire by 8 weeks, thus they are given initial vaccinations at 8 weeks.

Humane standards indicate a kitten/puppy should remain with its mother for 8 weeks; ferret kits are often removed at 4-6 weeks in order to have them altered, descented, and shipped by the optimal selling age of 8 weeks. At 8 weeks, most kits can eat some solid food whereas many arrive in stores or are even sold to consumers unable to eat solid food, indicating they are underage.

Canine Distemper

Kits: One initial vaccination at 8 weeks of age, plus a series of two additional booster shots given 3-4 weeks apart.

Adults with unknown vaccination status: Initial vaccination upon intake and a booster given within 3-4 weeks.

Canine distemper affects ferrets, dogs, and raccoons (among other wild animals). It is 99% fatal in ferrets and 50% fatal in unvaccinated dogs. It can be carried and transmit between ferrets and dogs. Ferrets shipped from breeding facilities receive one initial vaccination only. The efficacy of this initial shot is unknown in ferrets less than 8 weeks of age and, as noted above, ferret kits may arrive in stores at less than 8 weeks old. Stores do not provide booster vaccinations no matter how long the animal remains unsold.

Learning About Ferrets

Species: Mustela Putorious Furo, loosely translated as “weasel/ musky-smelling thief”

Status: Domestic. Ferrets were domesticated about the same time as the common housecat.

Legal Status: Banned in Hawaii, Puerto Rico, California and several select cities. Allowed with restrictions in certain other states (ie. Rhode Island – no sales; South Carolina – sold only with valid rabies vaccination.)

Traditional Use:

- Hunting rabbits
- Rodent control on farms and ships

Historical Highlights:

- Mentioned in Middle Eastern written records as early as 2,000 BC
- Noted in dynastic records of Genghis and Kublai Khan
- Used by Roman armies to forage
- In medieval era restricted to nobility
- Mascot of the Massachusetts Colonial Navy
- Commonly used in US up to 1930’s on farms to kill mice or rats
- Used to lay cabling, including transmission cables for Prince Charles/Princess Diana wedding and by US Air Force

Current Uses:

- Kept as pets
- Medical research
  1. Especially influenza viruses including common flu, SARS and avian flu
  2. Also research for cystic fibrosis, gastrointestinal disorders, reproduction

Population density: 2012 statistics from American Pet Product Manufacturers annual survey indicates 1.8 million kept as pets in the US.

Physical characteristics:

- Less than 1 lb. to 3.5 lbs. (Females about ½ the size of males; unaltered males can weigh up to 5 lbs.). Length 18-24”
- While known to live up to 12 years, current age range is 6-7 years
- Quiet; when excited will make a soft chuckling noise; if injured may yelp or shriek
- Nearsighted but with an excellent sense of smell
- Musky natural scent primarily eliminated by altering

Activity:

- Sleep as much as cats; 16-18 hours/day
- Naturally crepuscular (active dawn & dusk) but will adjust their schedule to that of owner
- Normally unafraid of other pets. May tease cats or dogs but might injure natural prey such as birds, rodents, hamsters or guinea pigs.

Diet: Carnivores requiring meat-based, high quality pet food; usually dry kibble, constantly available. Need water constantly available.

Care:

- Non-retractable nails must be clipped and ears cleaned regularly
- Dental care as like dog
- Occasional shampoo
- Clean bedding weekly and change litter as needed. Cages should be thoroughly cleaned monthly.

Housing: Most owners maintain a cage for nighttime confinement and for protection while owner is out. Easy-clean alternative is a metal pet playpen. Easily transportable in small pet carrier and able to wear harness/leash set. Require temperature-controlled environment; susceptible to heatstroke.

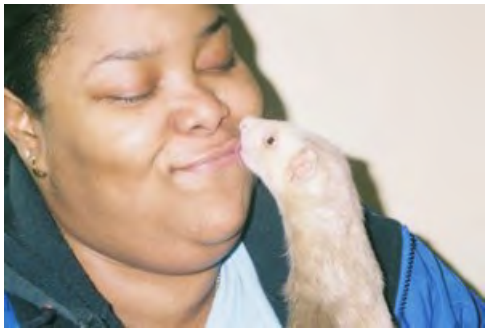
Litter: Trainable to litter boxes or newspapers. Prefer to back into corners as defense against natural predators such as hawks. Due to their short digestive system, feces & urine does not have a foul smell.

Personality:

- Fun-loving, friendly and curious
- Often referred to as “a kitten that doesn’t grow up”
- Intelligent, with excellent problem-solving skills
- Love to play with each other, humans, or toys such as tubes, boxes, or plush items
- Have a natural instinct to explore and investigate; also to dig in dirt and uproot plants
- Known to steal things such as socks, shoes, remote controls, and anything else that takes their fancy
- Affectionate; may ‘kiss” (lick) or snuggle on lap for short periods

Heath Requirements: Annual rabies vaccination beginning at 12 weeks. Series of canine distemper vaccinations depending on age; when young, 3 shots spaced 3-4 weeks apart.

Health issues: Prone to pancreatic and adrenal gland cancers. May also suffer from lymphoma, cardiac disease, and skin tumors.



Prepared by the Ferret Association of Connecticut, Inc.
14 Sherbrooke Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106 Phone: 860.247.1275
ferretassn.org

Ferret Bites

Statistics from the Center for Disease Control and World Health Organisation do not address bites from ferrets.
CT Dept. of Agriculture does not maintain numbers of different types of animal bites. Their representative told me “9 out of 10” were dog bites and that she had not heard of a ferret bite in “years.”

Comparative Statistics regarding Dog & Cat Bites

75-80 million dogs in US	70-85 million cats in US
4.5 million dog bites per year (5.5%)	400,000 cat bites per year (.5%)
885,000 require medical treatment (1.1%)	66,000 require medical treatment (.08%)
30-35 people killed by dogs annually	

1.8 million ferrets – IF they bit as often as dogs – would be 100,000 bites per year. If ferrets bit as often as cats, 900 bites per year. There are no records to indicate ferret bites are considered a problem in states across the US.

What a Ferret Bites Looks Like

Reproduced from http://www.rapid-pest-control.co.uk/agricultural-pests/using-ferrets-for-rabbit-control

“Ferreting is still one of the most effective ways of clearing rabbits from an area – both in terms of cost and efficiency. If there is a rabbit in the burrow, it will be caught and killed – simple.

Handling ferrets is also a skill, they get very excited and want to work, so getting hold of one carefully and talking to them all the time is essential so they do not bite you – nothing likes being grabbed at or flinched at – doing this puts them on edge and will result in timid ferrets which bite.

Today, we were working on a country estate in Newbury. We had a new helper for a while, their gardener, so he was not really used to handling ferrets. After giving instruction and a demo of how to do it, he was let loose to do his best. Unfortunately, our young ferrets are a bit of a handful and once they got a bit excited, sure enough Matt got bitten – not once but 3 times…I think he gets it now! Fair play to him, after he stopped squealing like a girl (which excited the ferrets more!), he did settle down and did well.”

January 1, 2015

Mary Travis Bassett, MD, MPH
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules

Dear Commissioner Bassett:

I am an Animal Control Officer in the state of Connecticut.

I have handled domestic ferrets professionally and they are nice companion pets when owners are educated about their care and needs.

I support allowing spayed and neutered ferrets in New York City, and support an annual rabies vaccination requirement.

I do not support sales of ferrets in pet stores due to potential overpopulation/abandonment problems.

Sincerely,

Signature

Printed Name Sarah Bacon

Title: Animal Control Officer

Address or e-mail: Sbacon@meridenct.gov

Date: 1/2/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs.

Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Signature: Josh August

Printed Name: Josh August

Address (optional): ET/SABEQ633

E-mail or Telephone: (860) 670-3957

Additional comments (if any)

January 5, 2015

Mary Travis Bassett, MD, MPH
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11)
Proposed Rules

Dear Commissioner Bassett:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I have owned pet ferrets and they are great pets. They have special needs that pet stores do not teach customers about, so I do not think they should be sold in pet stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter.

Thank you.

R Cuq A
Bruce August
44 Alps dr
E. Hrtfd CT 06108
(860)670-8128

Date: 1/5/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Ruth E Follansbee

Printed Name: Ruth E Follansbee

Address (optional): 11 Skyline View Road

E-mail or Telephone: (860) 370-9498

Additional comments (if any)

January 5, 2015

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11)
Proposed Rules

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I do not own pet ferrets but know people who have and they seem to be nice pets. I think allowing them in New York City would be a benefit to animal lovers.

Thank you.

Signature: Julia J. Wilcox

Printed Name: Julia J Wilcox

Address (optional): 109 Warrenton Av, Hartford, CT 06105

E-Mail or Phone : JZWilcox@Aol.com

To submit comments online:

1. Go to rules.cityofnewyork.us/
2. Click on newly proposed rules.
3. Click on Animals (Article 161)/(Article 11).
4. On the right, Register to post a comment (you must register with a name/e-mail address, but are NOT required to provide your mailing address).
5. **Scroll through** the Terms of Use and check the box to agree to them. Enter the verification Capcha and you'll be sent an e-mail with instructions to complete registration with a password.

Date: 1/6/2015

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Thank you.

Signature: Jesse August

Printed Name: Jesse August

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: Jaug11@Yahoo.com

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1-7-15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Joan Scolsky

Printed Name: Joan Scolsky

Address (optional): 12 Barbara Road Tolland, CT

E-mail or Telephone: 860-870-8003

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1-7-15

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Thank you.

Signature: Joseph Scolsky

Printed Name: Joseph Scolsky

Address (optional): 12 Barbara Rd Tolland Ct

E-mail or Telephone: 860 870 8003

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1-7-15

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Thank you.

Signature: Janet Wenis

Printed Name: JANET WENIS

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: 860-289-0655

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1-7-15

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Thank you.

Signature: Tracy Hay

Printed Name: Tracy Hay

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: TracyannHay@g.mail.Com

Additional comments (if any)

I understand about Ferrets as my Sister (Michelle) used to have them. they are funny, loveable, playful if you take very good Care of them do not harm them in any way! They will be good Pets. Ferrets will return they love respect back! They are not bad for public to have them as pets. Would ban Ferrets in Pet Stores as they are not told how too handle them right! Would adpote them at Ferrets Shelter!

over →

Public have been missunderstanding how
andle Ferrets! In Pets Stores!

Date: 01/07/2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Mary Machell

Printed Name: MARY MACHELL

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: mgm@ccgcinc.org

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1/7/2015

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Thank you.

Signature: Trish Sloan

Printed Name: Trish Sloan

Address (optional): 1075 Tolland Tpke Manchester, CT 06042

E-mail or Telephone: tls@ccgcinc.org

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1/7/15

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Thank you.

Signature: Alaina E. Platz

Printed Name: Alaina E. Platz

Address (optional): _____

E-mail or Telephone: evildwarf127@Yahoo.com

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1-10-15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Christina Simmons

Printed Name: Christina Simmons

Address (optional): _____

E-mail or Telephone: _____

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1/10/15

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Thank you.

Signature: Stephen J. Breen

Printed Name: Stephen J. Breen

Address (optional): _____

E-mail or Telephone: _____

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1/10/15

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Thank you.

Signature: Dona L. Granata

Printed Name: DONA L. GRANATA

Address (optional): —

E-mail or Telephone: —

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1/12/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
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Thank you.

Signature: John Michael Gilbert

Printed Name: John Michael Gilbert

Address (optional): 14 A John Olds dr. Manchester CT 06040

E-mail or Telephone: Babiejonn@aol.com

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1/12/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets

Dear Commissioners:

I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies.

I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs.

Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well.

Thank you.

Signature: Karen O'Keefe

Printed Name: Karen O'Keefe

Address (optional): 11 Brent Dr Vernon CT

E-mail or Telephone: _____

Additional comments (if any)

Date: Jan 12, 2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Joseph M. O'Keefe

Printed Name: Joseph M. O'KEEFE

Address (optional): 11 BRENT DR. VERNON, CT 06066

E-mail or Telephone: _____

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1/12/14

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Carrol Hyllen

Printed Name: CARROLL HYLLEN

Address (optional): _____

E-mail or Telephone: _____

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1/13/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
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Thank you.

Signature: Dorene August

Printed Name: Dorene August

Address (optional): 44 Alps Dr. Eff.

E-mail or Telephone: (860) 670-8754

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1/13/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature:

Printed Name: Dennis DiPenza

Address (optional): 163 S Whitney #23 Hartford CT 06105

E-mail or Telephone: DLD100490@gmail.com

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1/13/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: [illegible]

Printed Name: DENNIS RUSSO

Address (optional): _____

E-mail or Telephone: 860-236-8181

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 01/13/2015

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Cheyenne Kitzki

Printed Name: Cheyenne Kitzki

Address (optional): _____

E-mail or Telephone: belfastard@hotmail.com

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1/13/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Jeremy A. Ryan

Printed Name: Jeremy A. Ryan

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: JARyan03@hotmail.com

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1/16/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature:

Printed Name: JUSTIN RYAN

Address (optional): 14 SHERBROOKE AVE HARTFORD, CT 06106

E-mail or Telephone: HARTFORDCT26@YAHOO.COM

Additional comments (if any)

FORMER FERRET OWNER. FERRETS ARE NICE, SWEET PETS.
I SEE NO RISK IN ALLOWING FERRETS IN NYC.

Date: 1.18.15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: Diane K Jordan

Printed Name: Diane K. Jordan

Address (optional):

E-mail or Telephone: 781-424-1768

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1/19/15

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: [illegible]

Printed Name: Patrick McKenna

Address (optional): _____

E-mail or Telephone: PJMcKenna84@gmail.com

Additional comments (if any)

Date: _____

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

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Thank you.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: Gregory Norton

Address (optional): _____

E-mail or Telephone: greg.nrtn@gmail.com

Additional comments (if any)

Date: 1-19-15

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Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
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Thank you.

Signature: [illegible]

Printed Name: MICHAEL DIONNE

Address (optional): [redacted] dionne.design@yahoo.com

E-mail or Telephone: _____

Additional comments (if any)

From: rock100th@aol.com
To: Resolution Comments
Subject: my input regarding the ferret ban
Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 11:56:02 AM

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am a 51 year resident of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. In July 2007, my nephew came home with an animal that he said someone dumped in a box on 3rd avenue and was running around the street. The animal was something I had never seen before, and if my nephew wasn't with a friend of his who had seen this animal, he wouldn't have known it was a ferret. My nephew insisted that he wanted to keep it as a pet even though I was terrified of the "thing". I went to work and googled about ferrets and found out that they were "wild" weasels and very, very dangerous! This was based on a few videos and statements that I came across from former Mayor Guiliani. I went home and further insisted that this ferret was meant to live in the wild and would be much better off being placed in Shore Road Park. My nephew still would not listen. After a couple of weeks of the ferret living in a box in our home, I figured I should find out a little more about this "wild" creature that, so far, seemed like a very calm and friendly pet. I found out a lot about her but was still very frightened based on Guiliani's comments. After a few more weeks, I ordered everything that was needed to make this new pet a little more comfortable in our home. A high-rise cage, vitamins, toys, ferret food, water bottles, etc. I still would not touch her though since I was still terrified, but since I read that ferrets needed at least 3 hours of playtime and socialization, I would take her out of the cage by way of a plastic bag, and after we had a blast playing for over 3 hours, I would call my nephew to retrieve her and bring her back down to her cage. By October, I finally got up the nerve to actually touch her! lol During the course of my interaction with her, I realized she was nothing but a loving and fun pet. Even though she was terrified of us from being dumped on the street, she never, ever nipped or bit not one member of my household nor any guests in my home. After about having her live with us for about a year, Isabella ("Izzy") officially moved into my home upstairs where she lived as the most loving and affectionate pet until April 21, 2014 when she died from cancer. I can honestly say that she was the very best thing that happened to my family and I am so glad that my nephew did not listen to me and dump her in the park, where she would have died probably almost immediately. She exhibited absolutely no weasel-like dangerous behavior other than loving to play and having a blast while she did so. She slept during the winter for about 22 hours a day and was a little more active during the summer months. She was the most perfect apartment pet since she did not need to be walked like a dog to do her "business". Ferrets go in their litter box or in corners on newspaper. I did take her outside when the weather was warm and had a special small dog carrying case for her - she loved it.

My biggest problem with having a ferret was the lack of vets who treated ferrets. One year from her disease, she was excessively itchy. I took her to no less than five vets and could not get an honest answer on what was going on. Thankfully I was in touch on Facebook with a few ferret shelter owners and one of them knew exactly what she needed. Her health and welfare, in my eyes, was just as important as my own or another family members.

I would love to see more ferret owners in the City since this ban, to me, is ridiculous. However, I do not think ferrets should be sold in pet stores where clueless people can buy them because they are cute. I thoroughly educated myself on ferrets when I realized she was here to stay, however, I know that a lot of owners - especially the one who dumped her in a box with dog food - would not do that. They require love, attention, nurturing, wellness visits, vaccines, etc. They cannot be left alone like a cat.

It is almost 9 months since Isabella died and it's still upsetting to me. A ferret is not a pet that I would ever had said I would be owning one day, but it happened and I am extremely glad that it did. She was a true joy and blessing.

Lisa Barkett

From:	David Gaines
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	American Ferret Association - Addendum to written comments re: amending section 161.01
Date:	Wednesday, January 21, 2015 3:31:32 PM

The American Ferret Association concurs with the New York City Bar Association Animal Law Committee in their support of an addition to the proposed amendment to section 161.01 that would prohibit the so-called "descenting" of ferrets by removal of the anal scent gland. Ferrets, as do all mustelids, possess oil-producing glands throughout their bodies. Removal of the largest of these glands may or may not mitigate the ferret's natural odor but certainly subjects the animal to an unnecessary medical procedure that is undertaken for the convenience of owners and not because it is in the best interests of ferrets.

David Gaines
Director, Legal & Legislative Committee
American Ferret Association, Inc.

From:	crazuri86@yahoo.com
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Ferret ban lift
Date:	Wednesday, January 21, 2015 5:08:37 PM

Dear dept of health,

I request the ban on private domestic ownership be lifted. Ferrets are loving, playful, sweet little critters that are completely harmless. They are especially awesome for busy city folk like us. Ferrets only require a couple hours of playtime and they sleep for most of the day (it is their nature).

Lifting this ban will help owners not be afraid of taking them out in public and also going to the vet. Although vets don't discriminate who to care for some owners are afraid of their pets to be taken away. Ferrets do need their annual shots just like cats and dogs.

Finally, i believe ferrets are not to be sold in retail pet stores. Many people don't think about how much maintenance ferrets require as opposed to other common pets. Not selling them in stores will reduce many unnecessary risks of them them not being taken care of properly.

Thank you for reading!

From:	Danisa Arias
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Ferret ban repeal
Date:	Wednesday, January 21, 2015 12:41:59 PM

Ferrets has long been misconstrued in the press, sensationalized for political folly. Let us not forget that ferrets have been domesticated for over 2000 years and we're even pictured in portraits of royal families as their beloved pets. They make for a great apartment pet and ideal for a typical New Yorker schedule. For an animal that spends about 18 hours asleep, play time can fit in with our time. Before any ferret is adopted, they must be spayed/neutered, descented and should have initial vaccinations, in which the owner is responsible for completing vaccine series. And I stress adoption from rescue groups and reputable breeders. Let us set the stage that backyard breeding will not be tolerated, and not go the way cats and dog had. And not in concern fpr wildlife, but to the added stress to an already underfunded animal shelter syayem. I worked as a veterinary technician, I am aware of the concerns people may have, yet it is the same concerns I hold for any animal; dog, cat, rabbit or ferret. It is the responsibility of the owner to educate themselves and understand the importance of knowing the boundaries of their pet. Some dogs may not favor strangers, some cats may hide fron them and a ferret may not want to be held because they're too distracted by the bag of treats to hold still. These are animal personalities owners will pick up and always the responsibility of the owner to be wise. Any animal, no matter the species, always should be supervised with small children. Ferrets are great animals and inspired playfulness and affection. Please allow owners to come from the shadows to seek the help they may feel hesitant to get due to the ban. Don't let media hysteria cloud what facts have been set forth. And with the success of the ferret rabies vaccine, we can set a standard for other domesticated animals people choose to be their companions.

From:	maritzalr09@gmail.com on behalf of Maritza Rodriguez
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Ferret Ban
Date:	Wednesday, January 21, 2015 2:10:40 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the proposed repeal of the New York City ban on ferrets as companion animals. I am a veterinarian in the New York area and I support the legalization of ferrets for ownership, but not for sale in pet stores.

Ferrets represent a far lower threat to public health than cats or dogs. They are not known for biting. Effective rabies vaccines are available for use in ferrets. The vast majority of ferrets in the United States are spayed and neutered prior to sale making the formation of a feral ferret population unlikely. Ferrets are friendly and social animals that make great pets. They are highly suited to life in New York City.

Thank you very much for your time,
Maritza Rodriguez, VMD

--
Veterinary Emergency and Referral Group
Maritza Rodriguez, VMD

From:	Ameerah Spencer
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Ferret Ban
Date:	Wednesday, January 21, 2015 1:58:03 PM

January 21, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the proposed repeal of the New York City ban on ferrets as companion animals. I am a Veterinary Technician in the area and I fully support the legalization of ferrets for ownership, but not for sale in pet stores.

Ferrets represent a far lower threat to public health than cats or dogs. They are not known for biting. Effective rabies vaccines are available for use in ferrets. The vast majority of ferrets in the United States are spayed and neutered prior to sale making the formation of a feral ferret population impossible.

Ferrets are friendly, social animals that make fantastic pets. They are highly suited to life in New York City. There is no legitimate reason for the ban on ferrets to remain in place.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this topic that means so much to the animal-owning community of New York City.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ameerah Spencer

From:	Justin Crowell
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Ferret Ban
Date:	Wednesday, January 21, 2015 3:14:24 PM

January 17, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the proposed repeal of the New York City ban on ferrets as companion animals. I fully support the legalization of ferrets for ownership, but not for sale in pet stores.

The vast majority of ferrets in the United States today are bred at a facility called Marshall Farms where they are spayed or neutered prior to distribution. They also are bred extensively to have friendly personalities and to be exceptionally tame. As a result, domestic ferrets are often described as being a cross between a puppy and kitten- a very playful, friendly animal that is also independent and highly suited to life in an urban environment. As they all are spayed and neutered prior to sale, there is no risk of formation of a feral ferret population.

Opponents of ferret ownership have often cited the risk to public health as a reason to maintain the ban. Domestic ferrets are far less dangerous than cats and dogs. They are certainly no more prone to biting, and in my experience working with them, are dramatically LESS prone to biting.

Rabies transmission is another frequently cited argument against ferret legalization. Ferrets, just like any mammal, can potentially become infected with the rabies virus, however very effective vaccines for ferrets exist. Additionally, there are absolutely no reports of a human ever contracting rabies from a ferret, even before the commercial vaccine was available.

Ferrets are wonderful pets that are easy to care for and greatly improve the quality of life of the people who own them. There is absolutely no legitimate reason for them to have a different legal status than cats or dogs. As with cats and dogs, sale in commercial pet stores of these animals should be prohibited as this promotes impulse-purchasing of an animal that is a 5-7 year commitment, and often ends up in the overwhelming of shelters.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this topic that means so much to the animal-owning community of New York City.

Sincerely,

Justin Crowell
Editor // Motion Graphics Designer // Director
610 574 5840 // @JustinHCrowell
JustinCrowell.com

From:	Miranda Menzel
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Ferret Legalization in NYC
Date:	Wednesday, January 21, 2015 2:53:43 PM
Attachments:	IMG_3299.MOV

Good afternoon,

As a person owning ferrets instead of dogs or cats growing up, I am a strong advocate for lifting the ban for ferrets in New York City. I have had ferrets my whole life, and at the age of 24, for the first time ever, I don't have my pets with me because I had to move into the city. Ferrets are kind, intelligent, litter and cage trained animals perfect for apartment life in New York. They could never survive outside their homes and take over the subway underground as some have suggested. We lost our ferret Max for 48 hrs once and found him in a humane trap eating grapes. Ferrets bred today are domesticated and loving creatures who would not harm a child or other animal any more than a cat or dog could. Again, we had ferrets young and old around young children who hug too tight and infants with milk on their lips and we NEVER had an issue. When raised by responsible owners as with any pet; ferrets are the ideal companion. We should however ban pet store liscensing and careless breeding of ferrets to ensure only serious owners take on the responsibility of one. Please allow me to have my pets again, and welcome ferrets to the big apple.
I have attached two photos of our family ferrets and a video of our two males playing on the couch :)

Miranda

From:	Natalie Fontane
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Ferret legalization is Needed
Date:	Wednesday, January 21, 2015 1:06:56 PM

I'd like to take this opportunity to recommend New York City lift the ban on ferret ownership. Ferrets are wonderful, loving, domestic pets that pose no more of a threat to people than a young kitten or puppy does. Unlike reptiles which can spread salmonella to handlers whose immune systems are compromised, ferrets harbor no such diseases. They are easily vaccinated against rabies, and when properly cared for, they pose no danger to people or other animals (aside from small rodents which might be seen as prey, but cats are just as guilty of harming rodents as a ferret is).

I'd also like to express the ferret owner community's desire that you maintain purchasing ferrets in the city be illegal as these animals are not quite as easy to understand as a dog or cat, and many end up in shelters when their owners realize their care is quite different from what they were expecting. Ferrets should be legal to own as long as rabies vaccinations on the animal are current and its owner follows leash laws as is expected of dog and cat owners.

Natalie Fontane

From:	jenniferromanodvm@gmail.com on behalf of Jennifer Romano
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Ferret legalization
Date:	Wednesday, January 21, 2015 5:53:57 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the proposed repeal of the New York City ban on ferrets as companion animals. I am a veterinarian in the area and I support the legalization of ferrets for ownership, but not for sale in pet stores.

Ferrets represent a low threat to public health. They are not known for biting. Effective rabies vaccines are available for use in ferrets. The vast majority of ferrets in the United States are spayed and neutered prior to sale.

Ferrets are friendly, social animals that make great pets. They are highly suited to life in New York City.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this topic.

Jennifer Romano, DVM

From:	Janet Cometa
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Ferret Repeal
Date:	Thursday, January 22, 2015 11:35:26 AM

January 21, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the proposed repeal of the New York City ban on ferrets as companion animals. I am a VETERINARIAN in the area and I fully support the legalization of ferrets for ownership, but not for sale in pet stores.

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Ferrets are friendly, social animals that make fantastic pets. They are highly suited to life in New York City. There is no legitimate reason for the ban on ferrets to remain in place.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this topic that means so much to the animal-owning community of New York City.

Janet Cometa

From:	Sarah Lipkin
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Ferrets for NYC!
Date:	Wednesday, January 21, 2015 2:11:44 PM

January 21, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the proposed repeal of the New York City ban on ferrets as companion animals. I am a licensed NYS veterinarian and I work in the NYC area. I fully support the legalization of ferrets for ownership, but not for sale in pet stores.

Ferrets represent a far lower threat to public health than cats or dogs. They are not known for biting. Effective rabies vaccines are available for use in ferrets. Distemper vaccines are also very efficacious and ferrets are no longer considered a significant reservoir for this virus. The vast majority of ferrets in the United States are spayed and neutered prior to sale making the formation of a feral ferret population unlikely.

Ferrets are friendly, social animals that make fantastic pets. They are highly suited to life in New York City.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this topic that means so much to the animal-owning community of New York City.

Thanks guys!

Sarah Lipkin, DVM
Veterinary Emergency and Referral Group

From:	Morgan
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Ferrets for The Big Apple!
Date:	Wednesday, January 21, 2015 12:59:54 PM

Ferrets are sweet, energetic, and loving pets! Not wild animals! The banning of ferrets in the NYC is not only illogical, but an infringement on my right to choose what kind of pet I choose to keep in my own home!
Free the Ferrets!

Morgan Menzel
Ferret Advocate
Florida

From:	Shelley Lake
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Ferrets make great pets
Date:	Wednesday, January 21, 2015 12:26:10 PM

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

I would like to share my ferret story with you.

I have had ferrets since I graduated grammar school. As an 8th grade graudation present, I got my first ferret. This was before ferrets were cool. Before they were as mainstream as they are today. We didn't ferret food or ferret toys or ferret cages. We had to use everything for cats. I only tell you this so you can see how long ago I had this first ferret. 1986.

I have had ferrets continuously since then. We have dogs and ferrets. The home is not complete without them.

They are sweet. They are loyal. They are so much fun you can hardly stop laughing when they are playing. They are not dangerous at all. I know there was some ridiculous statement I read that people are worried about feral ferret colonies forming in the streets. Trust me when I say these are house ferrets. If one got out, it would be in trouble. It's not meant to live outside. That's why they are domesticated. They are unable to live in the wild and survive.

In my entire time of owning ferrets, there has never been an incident. They get their required vaccinations so they pose no threat. They sleep about 20 hours a day so they are easy to care for. They don't take up much space. They are awesome pets and would make many people happy if they were legal to own in NYC.

They should, however, not be sold in pet stores. The mass ferret breeders are making sick ferrets. They take no notice of bloodlines or inbreeding. The way to go is a private breeder. They produce litters of much healthier babies. And that makes the ferret and the owner happier too.

please vote to legalize ferrets in NYC.

Thank you and have a great day

--
paypal: NEW PAYPAL ADDRESS!! missparker10@gmail.com

From:	Angie G
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Ferrets
Date:	Wednesday, January 21, 2015 3:04:33 PM

Hello my name is Angela Giglio and I am writing on behalf of the legalization of ferrets. There is s misconception on these little fuzzies. Like any animal in rights will attack to defend but they little critters xan be the sweetest of animals. I had a friend whose ferret gave kisses. It was so tender. They are great apartment animals because they require little maintenance. As with any animal you have your wild ones. But just like a dog, if they are socialized they are great around all animals and humans. When I lived away I owned one, actually 3 and they were great company. I think that this law should be revised. They are not vicious unless made to be. But I have never met a vicious one.

Please reconsider so we can have our fuzzies back

Sent from Yahoo! Mail on Android

From:	kevin
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Ferrets
Date:	Wednesday, January 21, 2015 4:32:18 PM

Please legalize ferrets as pets in NYC.

They are perfect pets for city dwellers that love cats and dogs but have a busy schedule. They have the same traits as cats and dogs but they can be kept in a cage most of the day since they sleep up to 16 hours a day, they are good at adapting to your times which is also a plus. They can be walked outside on a leash or in your house. They are very affectionate little critters that are very silly and playful.

Please do not let them be sold in public pet stores in nyc. A lot of pet shops do not take care of them properly. Ferrets aren't for everyone they should be researched first before being bought because they could require a lot of maintenance and expenses as a cat and dog would.

Thank You
Kevin

Sent from my iPad

From:	Allison Crivello
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Fwd: Please make ferrets legal
Date:	Wednesday, January 21, 2015 3:47:21 PM

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Allison Crivello" <alliecat1104@gmail.com>
Date: Jan 21, 2015 3:41 PM
Subject: Please make ferrets legal
To: <resolutioncomment@health.nyc.gov>
Cc:

To whom it may concern

I am very thankful that you are taking the time to read our emails on a subject very dear to our hearts.

I am an owner of 2 very cute, smart, well trained ferrets my children absolutely love them and play with them all the time. My ferrets have been to the vet and have received their vaccines. It's very important for them to receive them.

I wish I could have been at the hearing today and I would have brought them to meet you all ,you could of held them, played, and gotten your own little ferret kisses (yes they are very lovable) .

Ferrets don't make any noise they are litter box trained and they sleep in a cage which by the way is up to 18 hours a day. I have ferret proofed my house just like you would if you had a puppy (for they're safety). And they are and should be supervised when they are out due to the fact that they love to get into things , they are very curious just like a cat.

Thank you again for taking the time to read this and please think about our little fuzzy's that are loved in our homes

Allison Crivello

From:	Ferrets Club Of New York City
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Fwd: testimony 2
Date:	Wednesday, January 21, 2015 1:53:35 PM
Attachments:	Publication1.pdf

Hello I am forwarding a series of comments from Fact a ferret shelter in Connecticut that has been active for over 20 years.

Sincerely,
Ariel Jasper

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "FACT" <lvgruden@ferret-fact.org>
Date: Jan 21, 2015 11:32 AM
Subject: testimony 2
To: "Ferrets Club Of New York City" <ferrets.of.nyc@gmail.com>, <taboocrations@gmail.com>, "Ann Gruden" <ann@agruden.com>
Cc:

> --
> L. Vanessa Gruden
> Executive Director
> Ferret Association of CT, Inc.

From:	Ferrets Club Of New York City
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Fwd: testimony 3
Date:	Wednesday, January 21, 2015 1:55:00 PM
Attachments:	bites.pdf

Hello I am forwarding a series of comments from Fact a ferret shelter in Connecticut that has been active for over 20 years.

Sincerely,
Ariel Jasper

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "FACT" <lvgruden@ferret-fact.org>
Date: Jan 21, 2015 11:37 AM
Subject: testimony 3
To: "Ferrets Club Of New York City" <ferrets.of.nyc@gmail.com>, <taboocreations@gmail.com>, "Ann Gruden" <ann@agruden.com>
Cc:

I also have 20 or so pages of written letters we will try to fax direct to DOH.

--
L. Vanessa Gruden
Executive Director
Ferret Association of CT, Inc.

From:	Jessica Barber
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	In favor of lifting the ferret ban
Date:	Wednesday, January 21, 2015 2:01:56 PM

As a six-year resident of New York City and a lifelong lover of ferrets, I request that the ban on private domestic ferret ownership be lifted. Ferrets are small, clean, litter trainable, quiet animals that are well suited for life in our fine city. They make wonderful pets and are not inherently dangerous, as they are not more likely to bite than a cat or dog. In addition, there is now an FDA approved rabies vaccination for these pets.

Ferrets provide the positive and documented health benefits of any other traditional pet, and are a great alternative for people who may be allergic to cats or unable to walk a dog.

I also ask that this ban is only lifted for private owners who shall be required to own spayed and neutered animals, without allowing permits for breeding or pet shops in order to protect the animals and reduce the risk of ferrets becoming a fad animal that can overwhelm our shelters.

Please do the right thing and lift the ban on these sweet animals, which are loved by so many New York City residents but have been wrongly categorized as dangerous and unsuitable pets by ill-informed former mayors and our city's governing agencies. Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,

Jessica Barber

From: Johanna
To: Resolution Comments
Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 3:31:05 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the proposed repeal of the New York City ban on ferrets as companion animals. I am a VETERINARY TECHNICIAN in the area and I fully support the legalization of ferrets for ownership, but not for sale in pet stores.

Ferrets represent a far lower threat to public health than cats or dogs. They are not known for biting. Effective rabies vaccines are available for use in ferrets. The vast majority of ferrets in the United States are spayed and neutered prior to sale making the formation of a feral ferret population impossible.

Ferrets are friendly, social animals that make fantastic pets. They are highly suited to life in New York City. There is no legitimate reason for the ban on ferrets to remain in place.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this topic that means so much to the animal-owning community of New York.
Sincerely,
Johanna Espinoza

Sent from my iPad

From: Kara Sessums
To: Resolution Comments
Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 2:22:00 PM

January 21, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the proposed repeal of the New York City ban on ferrets as companion animals. I am a VETERINARIAN in the area and I fully support the legalization of ferrets for ownership, but not for sale in pet stores and not for breeding.

Ferrets represent a far lower threat to public health than cats or dogs. They are not known for biting. Effective rabies vaccines are
available for use in ferrets. The vast majority of ferrets in the United States are spayed and neutered prior to sale making the formation of a
feral ferret population impossible.

Ferrets are friendly, social animals that make fantastic pets. They are highly suited to life in New York City. There is no legitimate reason
for the ban on ferrets to remain in place.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this topic that means so much to the animal-owning community of New York City.

Kara B. Sessums, DVM, DACVIM (Neurology)
Veterinary Emergency & Referral Group
Brooklyn, NY

From: Elizabeth Ferguson
To: Resolution Comments
Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 2:07:02 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the proposed repeal of the New York City ban on ferrets as companion animals. I am a VETERINARY TECHNICIAN in the area and I fully support the legalization of ferrets for ownership, but not for sale in pet stores.

Ferrets represent a far lower threat to public health than cats or dogs. They are not known for biting. Effective rabies vaccines are available for use in ferrets. The vast majority of ferrets in the United States are spayed and neutered prior to sale making the formation of a feral ferret population impossible.

Ferrets are friendly, social animals that make fantastic pets. They are highly suited to life in New York City. There is no legitimate reason for the ban on ferrets to remain in place and they're super cute!

Thank you very much for your consideration of this topic that means so much to the animal-loving community of New York City.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth

From: ShuLing Chang
To: Resolution Comments
Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 8:45:31 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the proposed repeal of the New York City ban on ferrets as companion animals. I am a VETERINARIAN in the area and I fully support the legalization of ferrets
for ownership, but not for sale in pet stores.

Ferrets represent a far lower threat to public health than cats or dogs. They are not known for biting. Effective rabies vaccines are available for use in ferrets. The vast majority of ferrets in the United States are spayed and neutered prior to sale making the formation of a feral ferret population impossible.

Ferrets are friendly, social animals that make fantastic pets. They are highly suited to life in New York City. There is no legitimate reason for the ban on ferrets to remain in place.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this topic that means so much to the animal-owning community of New York City.

Best regards,

Shuling Chang, vmd

"Love is an irresistible desire to be irresistibly desired." ~ Robert Frost

From: Diane Echevarria
To: Resolution Comments
Subject: Proposed Amendments to Articles 11 & 161
Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 12:58:27 PM

Re: removing ferrets from the list of
Animals prohibited as pets in the City of New York.

Dear Sir/Madam:

I urge you to remove ferrets from the list of prohibited pets in NYC.
They are playful and make great pets. They are very smart and play with dog toys.
They are the third most popular pet in the United States.
As with any animal, they have a natural urge to nibble and will bite if they feel threatened which is no different from a dog or cat.
Most ferrets stay at home and therefore do not pose a threat to people on the street.

Thank you for your consideration.

Diane E.

Diane Echevarria, PHR
Admin & HR Director
Sanky Communications, Inc.
SankyNet LLC
212-868-4300 Ext. 14

From: Jose Paredes
To: Resolution Comments
Subject: Repeal NYC Ferret Ban
Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 1:40:46 PM

January 21, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the proposed repeal of the New York City ban on ferrets as companion animals. I am a VETERINARY TECHNICIAN in the area and I fully support the legalization of ferrets for ownership, but not for sale in pet stores.

Ferrets represent a far lower threat to public health than cats or dogs. They are not known for biting. Effective rabies vaccines are available for use in ferrets. The vast majority of ferrets in the United States are spayed and neutered prior to sale making the formation of a feral ferret population impossible.

Ferrets are friendly, social animals that make fantastic pets. They are highly suited to life in New York City. There is no legitimate reason for the ban on ferrets to remain in place. Ferrets are very docile and usually make good companions.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this topic that means so much to the animal-owning community of New York City.

From:	C. Mike Lindsey
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Support for repeal of ferret ban
Date:	Wednesday, January 21, 2015 2:43:37 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the proposed repeal of the New York City ban on ferrets as companion animals. I am a VETERINARIAN/VETERINARY TECHNICIAN in the area and I fully support the legalization of ferrets for ownership, but not for sale in pet stores.

Ferrets represent a far lower threat to public health than cats or dogs. They are not known for biting. Effective rabies vaccines are available for use in ferrets. The vast majority of ferrets in the United States are spayed and neutered prior to sale making the formation of a feral ferret population impossible.

Ferrets are friendly, social animals that make fantastic pets. They are highly suited to life in New York City. There is no legitimate reason for the ban on ferrets to remain in place.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this topic that means so much to the animal-owning community of New York City.

-C. Mike Lindsey

From:	Matt Wyman
To:	Resolution Comments
Subject:	Unbanning ferret ownership
Date:	Wednesday, January 21, 2015 1:47:18 PM

Hello!

I'm writing to express my interest in ferrets getting unbanned in NYC. As someone not originally from around here I find it odd that such a progressive city as NYC has such a sweet and kind pet banned. Especially as the state it is in doesn't have it banned.

Please pass the unbanning!

~Matt

Violeta Savchenko

Comment:
I hope they will legalize ferrets in NYC...
Agency: DOHMH

Karen G

Comment:
New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31 Long Island City, NY 11101-4132 Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules/Ferrets Dear Commissioners: I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies. I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs. Pet store personnel, especially in chain stores, do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them well. Allow altered ferrets; do not allow pet store sales. Thank you. sin1roze2@comcast.net Karen G
Agency: DOHMH

Yvonne DiVita

Comment:
Please please please overturn the ferret ban. These delightful creatures are fun, loving and harmelss.
Agency: DOHMH

Amy Casner

Comment:
The ban on domestic ferrets should be lifted. These fun loving animals need to be able to go to the vet without their owners worrying about them being confiscated or being robbed by vets that don't have the education to care for them. The ferret helped to build NYC by running wires before 1934 it also was used in rodent control. They have earned their place long before an irate Mayor lost his wits about him. With the ban in place I can not visit NYC as I travel with my ferrets and would love to be able to see the city for myself. so please consider eliminating the ban. Thank You.

Miranda Kalonarou

Comment:
Dear Commissioner! I disagree with grooming salons inquire proof of vaccinations other than rabies! As we all know our animals are already over-vaccinated, let's not make them sicker! There are hundreds of "animal clinics/grooming salons" that are operated by non-licensed veterinarians/groomers that are thriving on vaccinations and other "procedures" making thousands of dollars!! Same with the cage dryers, the dryer is not the problem but the person who operates! There should a strict certification that'll require compassion, extensive knowledge and proven common sense in order for somebody to become a groomer! I have been grooming for a few years now and I've seen so much neglect towards these poor animals!

Bernadette Keith

Comment:
Ferrets make wonderful pets! I've had ferrets for around 15 years and they've always brought me great happiness and satisfaction in my life. I can't imagine living without them and feel that everyone should have the right to have such fun and enjoyable pets. Thank you for your consideration.

Kimberly Morales

Comment:
I request that the ban on private domestic ferret owner be lifted because they are small, clean and quite animals which makes it suitable for life in NYC. They make great pets and are very calm. They are more asleep than awake most of the time. I have had ferrets over 5 years and I am prove that they are not vicious animals. Since my baby brother was born, I have had ferrets and they never did any harm to him. I have heard of cats and dogs biting children more than ferrets. If this ban is lifted, I really wish that ferrets won't be sold in ANY pet store because I don't want none to fall in the wrong hands of people that don't have the time and care that ferrets really need. Ferrets are lovable creatures but like I said before they need a lot of care. They need to be vaccinated and so on but how can ferret owners in NYC bring their little ones to a vet without being afraid of getting caught with them?. I have gone through this and it's the worst thing ever, I love my ferrets and wouldn't want the city to take them away from me just because they believe they are dangerous. There should have done a deep research about ferrets when they banned them. Also, a lot of pet stores sell ferret food and supplies which means that a lot of New Yorkers own ferrets. I also ask that this ban is only lifted for private owners who will be required to own spayed and neutered animals, without allowing permits for breeding or pet shops in order to protect the animals and reduce the risk of ferrets becoming a fad animal that can overwhelm our shelters. Thank you for your time.

Charwyn David

Comment:
I agree with Nancy Chinchar. The only vaccination I think should be a requirement is rabies and that's for preventative measures in the event a groomer gets bitten. Bordetella is not required unless dogs are visiting a daycare or boarding facility. Dogs are not typically in contact with each other in a grooming parlor so the risk of disease transmission is slim.

Jay Cas

Comment:
The ban on ferret ownership in NYC should be lifted. In areas outside the city limits where ferret ownership is legal, there are no instances where ferrets reproduced in mass numbers outside the home, attacked the public, or engaged or were involved in any other situation that would justify a ban. Furthermore, ferret owners in NYC exists regardless of the health code, and the ban on ownership is doing nothing but marginalizing them. Policy should not be arbitrary but based on facts and science, and there are plenty of data that suggests owning ferrets is no more harmful than owning dogs, cats or any other pet currently allowed in NYC.

Robert Szpanderfer

Comment:
Dear Commissioner Mary Travis Bassett,, As someone who was born and raised in NYC for 18 years, I was shocked to learn that ferrets were not legal in the boroughs. I no longer live in the area; however, I still have family and friends that reside in NYC. Nearly a decade ago, I purchased my first ferret while studying in Maryland and I have owned ferrets ever since. They are charming, intelligent, and gentle animals that echo the love of their owners. Ferrets are the perfect companion for many residents of the NYC area as they are quiet, litter trained, and sleep for approximately 18-20 hours a day. The domesticated ferret cannot thrive without their owners providing them the proper care. Many of the comments that have been submitted provide strong evidence that ferrets make excellent companions and pose no threat to the NYC area. Therefore, I am submitting my comment to show support for the ferret owners that reside in NYC. Thank you for allowing the opportunity to submit comments.

Jackie Burke

Comment:
The ban on ferret ownership should be lifted. I got my ferrets when I lived in Indiana. I had graduated from the police academy and was also in my sophomore year of undergrad. I was going through a very tough depression and had started visiting the dogs at the pet store to help alleviate my depression. I desperately wanted a pet to help me cope, but caring for a dog in a small apartment was impractical. During my visits to the pet store, the ferrets captured my attention and stole my heart. After months of researching ferret care and ownership, I welcomed two of these lovely creatures into my home. They have changed my life. They have been a constant source of joy. They have helped me cope with depression, survive breakups, and actually motivated me to do better in school. As a police officer and full time student I faced a lot of stress, but caring for these ferrets gave me a purpose outside of myself, and playing with them gave me daily stress relief. Now in NYC I attend law school and face even more stressors than before. My ferrets continually provide me with the relief from my stress that only a pet can bring. Ferrets are suited to an apartment environment; they do not need as much space as other pets, they do not need to be taken outside for bathroom breaks (as they are litter trained), and they are still able to get proper exercise in the limited space that NYC apartments provide. Ferrets are also a perfect match for the busy, on-the-go New Yorker lifestyle. Ferrets sleep 20 hours a day in their cage which allows owners to maintain their schedules without sacrificing the animal's well-being, unlike dogs who are often left in crates for hours on end and must have strangers come to walk them. Regular care for my ferrets has been an issue since moving to the city. I am left wondering where I can take them for veterinary care. My ferrets receive both rabies and distemper shots every year and they are due for their, but I have been afraid to make any appointments because I fear they will be confiscated.

However, the ban should be lifted for private ownership only. Ferrets are very unique animals with unique needs. If ferrets were sold in stores, impulse buys would result, and the animals would suffer. Responsible owners would just like to enjoy the pets that they love in the city that they love. Overall, ferrets are heartwarming pets that increase the health and happiness of the people who own them. There is no reasonable reason for ferrets to be banned. The ban places a burden on people who wish to own a pet but may not be able to own a dog or cat due to space constraints or allergies. Ferrets are not dangerous, there is no risk of overbreeding because most are neutered before ever leaving the breeders', and they do not cause more damage to households than either cats or dogs. Ferrets enrich the lives of their owners and should be allowed in the city.

Sangeun Lee

Comment:
I request ferret ownership ban to be lifted. Ferrets are highly trainable and friendly animals. They suit for animal lovers who unfortunately do not have too much personal time. They are quite and they sleep most of the times. Big cities like NYC have complex living arrangement, which suggests that ferret is the best option. As long as they are neutered and descented, a few possible concerns will be certainly eliminated. They generally love to be petted by people. Now it's the time we should pay the same respect.

Hyomyung Kim

Comment:
Ferret ownership in nyc should be ligalized that they are nice and sweet. They are nothing more dangerous than people have cats and dogs. They sleep for more than where and doesn't make noisy. Its perfect for city pet.
Agency: DOHMH

Edita Birnkrant

Comment:
Dear Commissioner Mary Travis Bassett, Please review Friends of Animals' comments in regards to the Proposed resolution to amend Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) of the New York City Health Code . In regards to the proposal for the Board of Health to lift the ban of ownership and sale of ferrets as pets in New York City, Friends of Animals strongly opposes lifting the ban, as lifting the ban would mean that ferrets would then be widely sold in pet shops. Friends of Animals, an international animal advocacy organization founded in 1957 in New York, is a leader in the movement to end the homeless pet problem, which is the cause of millions of healthy pets being euthanized, languishing in shelters or living risky lives on the streets. We operate the country's first and longest running, nationwide, low-cost spay neuter program, and to date we've facilitated over 2.6 million spay neuter surgeries. Since 1957 we've educated the public about responsible pet ownership. There is progress being made in New York City in regards to the issues affecting pets that already are legal—dogs, cats, rabbits, etc, but there is still much work to be done. There are still so many unwanted pets in city shelters that are currently legal—adding another species to the mix that has been banned for decades is misguided and would have disastrous consequences. We were very glad that legislation recently passed in the City Council that prohibits the commercial sale of rabbits in pet stores. However, lifting the ban on ownership of ferrets would create the exact problems that led to the need to ban the sale of rabbits in pet stores. The last thing we should be doing is creating another market for irresponsible breeders. Allowing the sale of ferrets means creating a new market for these breeders, and that means there will be large numbers of "surplus" ferrets that will likely be dumped in shelters or on the streets. This is the wrong thing to do, just as we're making some real progress with all the issues that lead to the pet overpopulation problem. In closing, Friends of Animals strongly opposes lifting the ban of ownership and sale of ferrets in New York City. To lift this ban is to guarantee creating a host of problems with surplus numbers of ferrets being introduced into New York City, at a time when dogs, cats and rabbits are still being euthanized in city shelters for lack of adoption homes. Sincerely, Edita Birnkrant Campaigns Director 1841 Broadway, Suite 350 New York, NY 10023 Phone: 212.247.8120 Fax: 212.582.4482 E-mail: edita@friendsofanimals.org

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Elizabeth Bovenmyer

Comment:
In my personal opinion i think the people of NYC should be able to adopt these lovable, caring, creatures that bring so much joy to ones life Elizabeth Bovenmyer ferret owner to many over the years
Agency: DOHMH

Tara Smith

Comment:
I'm probably what most people would consider a "new" ferret owner. (I've only worked with and owned ferrets for five years.) But these curious, energetic, little clowns have stolen my heart. It's hard to have a bad day with these little guys around. Watching them run, tumble, bounce and wrestle with each other or a toy, can bring a smile to even the grumpiest face. When people ask why I like ferrets so much, this is what I tell them. Besides being cute and cuddly, Ferrets are: 1) great apartment pets. They are small -- rarely larger than 26 inches and 5 pounds -- quiet, and easy to train. Like cats, ferrets can use a litter box and groom themselves. There is seldom need for a bath. 2) very intelligent and easy to train. They can learn commands such as " come" ,"follow" , "let's go" . Tricks like "roll-over"," beg" , " jump " (through a hoop), " tunnel" and "weave" (winding through poles) can be mastered with a few treats. My little LeiDee Bug has mastered several tricks and enjoys entertaining people. 3) can be trained as therapy pets.Ferrets are very social and love attention. I'll never forget the looks on peoples faces when my boy Vlad walks into a room. Eyes light up, faces glow with smiles, conversations start. Even the hardest faces soften when they cuddle him. 4) keep you young -- in spirit at least. They are bubbly little animals full of energy. Their natural curiosity makes you see adventures in everyday things. 5) tend to get along well with cats and dogs. I can't imagine my life without these fur-babies. TaraSmith
Agency: DOHMH

Susann Thiel

Comment:
Thank you for accepting comments on the legal status of domestic ferrets in New York City. As a ferret owner for about 33 years and a Brooklyn native, I can testify that ferrets make terrific pets, especially for apartment dwellers. Ferrets form strong emotional bonds with caregivers and other household pets. Ferrets are highly sociable and intelligent. Thousands, maybe tens of thousands of ferrets are living in City homes already. They don’t survive on the streets or in parks. “Feral” ferrets don’t exist. Shelter operators, veterinarians and ferret owners have already shared their knowledge here. I would like to add a different perspective, as a disaster responder with the Red Cross, CERT, county and state animal response teams and multiple national humane organizations since 1998. On any given day, a pet owner’s poor judgment, lack of resources or inability to secure good veterinary care may cause pets to suffer starvation and neglect, abandonment, illness and injury, or worse. Human health and safety are also at risk in these circumstances. In a disaster, from a single house fire to a catastrophic Hurricane Sandy, people make life-altering decisions in the midst of chaos. People endanger themselves by refusing to leave without pets. Or people do leave, but then try to re-enter unsafe areas. New York’s response to Hurricane Sandy in 2012 became a national role model; human lives were saved

and health outcomes improved because people were able to evacuate with pets on public transportation, and pets were allowed in the shelters. But where were the ferrets? Why no ferrets in the ASPCA's shelter in Brooklyn, where hundreds of other animals were cared for? Why weren't ferrets rescued alive on Staten Island or in Queens? I won't forget the deep, wracking sobs of a woman who returned home to find her ferrets drowned, or the teenager who tried to hide his six ferrets in a laundry hamper. Or the ferrets being fed salad and peanuts by shelter workers who didn't know those foods would kill. Secrecy can defeat the best, most compassionate intentions. I hope the Commission will also mandate that domestic ferrets be spayed/neutered. The mandate will significantly reduce the number of ferrets brought to animal shelters. Also, responsible pet merchants like PetSmart decided years ago to reduce or halt the sale of ferrets (and dogs and cats) in their stores. Instead, they sponsor adoption events for local rescue groups and humane societies. Like puppies, most pet store ferrets came from large-scale, commercial "mills." Research has linked such breeding facilities with negative health and behavioral outcomes. Even perfectly healthy animals are frequent victims of impulse buys or life circumstances that render pet ownership impractical. Store managers were faced with euthanizing "returned" or finding a private, home-based ferret shelter that could squeeze in "just one more."
Agency: DOHMH

Tamara von Ouhl...

Comment:
I support this proposal as ferrets are not wild animals but domesticated and at the most exotic. As with any pet ownership the proper research needs to be done to properly care for the pet prior to purchase. Although I would not recommend ferrets to be sold in NYC to minimize impulse purchases and issues with proper care at the selling facilities. I do how ever believe that those who move to the city should be able to bring their pet with them and to get the proper and quality services that a "legal" pet would receive from shelters, rescues, veterinarians and animal hospitals in NYC.
Agency: DOHMH

Jody Renouf

Comment:
I am from Massachusetts, where ferrets were legalized in 1996. Having owned and fostered 15 ferrets in as many years, and now in a household with three of these little family members, I support ferret legalization in NYC. As with any pet, ferret ownership requires research before committing. Given the commitment, I am not in favor of their being sold in pet stores, where they may be an impulse or fad purchase. New York City can lead the way in only allowing adoption from nonprofit organizations which meet high standards of care.
Agency: DOHMH

Ella Johnson

Comment:
I fully support removing the ban of ferrets in NYC. I've owned several ferrets over the years and they are not a threat or harm in any way shape or form. They are exceptional pets as are dogs, cats, and other small animals. With proper vet attention, care, diet, and dedicated owner they make truly wonderful pets, nobody should miss out on the chance to experience what a joy and honor it is to have such an amazing animal. I do believe there should be some requirements before allowing to buy or adopt a ferret. They are not a caged or easy animal to care for, they need proper diet, several hours of play time, and they're prone to cancer which racks up Vet bills. If someone is unable to provide them with the care they need and deserve they should not own a ferret or any animal for that matter. If rules are enforced we will have less ferrets in shelters. I do not believe they should be extensive but do believe it would be something good to take under consideration.

Brian Rayne

Comment:
I support removing the ban on ferrets. It is not feasible for them to because a nuisance by forming wild packs because domestic ferrets don't have the survival skills to live on their own in the wild. Regarding diseases like rabies, they are no more dangerous than any other cat or dog.
Agency: DOHMH

Rebecca Charters

Comment:
As a ferret lover/owner, I highly urge the domestic ferret ban in NYC to be lifted. Ferrets make wonderful companions to the right owners. They do well in small apartments, as long as all their daily exercise requirements are met, and do well at adapting to their owners schedule. No different to a cat or a dog, providing the correct knowledge of care is there, and that new owners do their research first. I agree that ferrets should be spayed / neutered to avoid breeding, which is not only complicated and therefore dangerous, but too many abandoned ferrets are already in need of homes. However chemical castration should also be an option for ferret owners, due to ongoing research / studies showing destinct links between adrenal disease and the removal of the reproductive organs. Time to lift this ban. Its breaks my heart when I hear stories of people who are unable to own and care for ferrets due to restrictions/bans in their state.

Roary Williams

Comment:
My wife and I are private ferret owners. I want to take a second to outline the basic facts about domestic ferrets. First, the ferrets people keep as pets are NOT wild animals. They do not exist in nature. They are a domestic animal, usually bred by ferret farms. There has been little or no documented cases of domestic ferrets contracting rabies, however ferrets can safely and effectively be immunized for rabies and distemper. Domestic ferrets can be destructive in rental situations, but no more than any other companion animal. While many people buy and keep ferrets without prior knowledge and education, most ferret owners are very good at maintaining conditions which keep both ferrets and their rented housing safe from harm. Most domestic ferrets CANNOT be bred, since all ferrets produced by ferret farms are already spayed/neutered and descented. Private breeding of ferrets is difficult and not done easily, so that is not truly a concern. Domestic ferrets have been stereotypically and wrongly accused of being aggressive towards humans, but in almost all cases the behavior of ferrets is misunderstood. The way they play and socialize must be understood. They have jaws stronger than a pit bull, but even with that power I have never once been bitten by any of my 50 plus ferrets I have kept over the last twenty years. The idea that they attack small children or babies is just nonsense. Like any other animal, ferrets will protect themselves when scared, but it is actually less of a problem than with dogs and cats, statistically. I wanted to clear up these basic facts. There is no reason domestic ferrets should be treated like wild animals and regulated in that matter. The illegality of ferrets often CAUSES them to be abandoned, and placed in shelters. To legalize their ownership can only help this situation, not increase it. Thank you for reading.
Agency: DOHMH

Lorraine Lordi

Comment:
I support lifting the ban on ownership of pet ferrets in NYC. I have owned ferrets for 7 years and they are wonderful, intelligent and loving pets suitable for people well versed in their care and health issues. I ask that ferrets NOT be sold in pet stores and support the passing of laws that prohibit the retail sales of any pets.
Agency: DOHMH

Cheryl B

Comment:
Please allow New Yorkers to own spayed or neutered ferrets. I had two ferrets, Buttons and Ozzie. Ferrets are loving and good pets. They are great to enhance the lives of the people of NYC!
Agency: DOHMH

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jean samu

Comment:
I SUPPORT LEGALIZATION OF FERRETS IN NYC. I FORGOT TO MENTION IN MY LAST COMMENT THAT THEY WOULD BE GOOD PETS IN APARTMENTS AS THEY DONOT MAKE NOISE AS A DOG OR CAT WOULD. I LIKE DOGS AND CATS BUT I FEEL SINCE FERRETS ARE SMALL ANIMALS THEY WOULD BE GOOD FOR APARTMENT PEOPLE WHO HAVE LESS SPACE FOR A LARGER ANIMAL AND LIKE I SAID THEY ARE VERY QUITE AND SLEEP MOST OF THE TIME AS I WELL KNOW SINCE I HAD FERRETS FOR OVER 20 YEARS. PLEASE CONSIDER THE BAN ON FERRETS AND LEGALIZE THEM IN NYC. THEY ARE VERY LOVABLE AND A JOY TO HAVE AND AS I SAID I FORGOT TO MENTION IN MY FIRST COMMENT THAT THEY WOULD MAKE GOOD PETS IN AN APARTMENT. PLEASE LIFT THE BAN ON FERRETS IN NYC . I FULLY SUPPORT THE LEGALIZATION OF FERRETS IN NYC. THANK YOU AGAIN. J. SAMU
Agency: DOHMH

Ewelina Drozd

Comment:
Dear Commissioner of New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene ! Please legalize ferrets in New York City ! They are beautiful, gentle, and lovely animals. I've never heard anything bad about them. They are harmless and innocent small creatures. Domesticated thousands years ago by Egyptians and Romans. Leonardo da Vinci admired them. (In a year 1490 he painted a famous portrait of Cecilia Gallerani "Lady with an Ermine"). Ferrets are loyal, playful, intelligent, and affectionate. They bring joy and laugh to people. They even help overcome people's mental problems. I've never met a person who didn't laugh after seeing a happy ferret leap and bounce around a room during play. They deserve to be our pets like dogs and cats in our wonderful place like New York City.

Pawel Mirowski

Comment:
Dear Ma'am or Sir or the entire Board of New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene ! Please, legalize Ferrets in New York City ! They are so beautiful and lovely animals. They are harmless and innocent creatures. They bring joy and warm smile to people. They deserve to be legal resident of NYC. I love them so much and enjoy to see how they play and interact with us. They are no different than dogs and cats in giving to people love and friendship. Thank you for your kindness.

Gordon Johnson

Comment:
Commissioners, Please reconsider the City's arbitrary 16 year ban on private domestic ferret ownership. They are especially suited for life in New York City's tight quarters as they are small, clean, quiet, and litter trainable. They make wonderful pets and are not inherently dangerous - no more likely to bite than a cat or dog. Ferrets provide the positive and documented health benefits of any other traditional pet, while being a great alternative for people who may be allergic to cats or unable to walk a dog. Please allow only private owners and require pets to be spayed or neutered and vaccinated against rabies. Commercial sales and breeding in the city will only lead to impulse purchases, leading to more abandoned pets. A NYC resident who puts thought into adopting a ferret will find many organizations with ferrets available in the Metropolitan area who can ensure the ferret is finding a good home.

Shannon Gilman

Comment:
I am writing to request lifting the ban on ferrets in NYC. Ferrets are loving & fun little pets. They would be do fine in an apartment setting as they are small and sleep almost 20hrs a day. In the short amount of time i been a ferret owner, they have brought me so much. Also board member & volunteer at local CT ferret shelter. Being a responsible owner includes taking care of your pet no matter what kind of domesticated pet. If proper steps are taken: (1) To prevent impulse buying, don't allow the purchase of ferrets in pet stores. Instead, have prospective owners adopt from rescue/humane organizations where they can be provided with the proper education and be screened for suitability. (2) Spaying and neutering are important for the health of the ferret and to prevent overpopulation. (3) Rabies vaccines and Distemper vaccines. When they become available, will prevent overpopulation and diseases.

Barbara Carlson

Comment:
I've owned ferrets in Pittsburgh, PA for over 25 years and have run a ferret club for 18 years and a shelter for 12 years. There are over 250 people on our ferret mailing list (who own an average of 3 ferrets each) living in the Pittsburgh area and we've been just fine. Ferrets are legal in large cities all across the United States and they have no problems. Ferrets are domesticated pets just like cats and dogs, but without many of the issues that come with cats and dogs. Ferrets are ideal pets for city living -- they're small, don't bark, and are just fine while the owner is at work. They sleep for about 18 hours a day, and do not require a large space for exercise. I urge New York City to join the 21st Century and allow ferrets as pets.

Tina Hernandez

Comment:
Article 161 Folks all over the US are watching this. We want ferrets to live safely and without fear of confiscation everywhere. They are great pets and have gentle souls. They do not attack people as Dogs do . Ferrets have become a very popular pet and there here to stay with our with out laws to protect them and give they the same rights as our pet dogs and cats, When they get sick it should be there right to be able to get vet care with out the worry of being out laws in the USA They bring a lot of tax revenue on many thing they need , I have had 13 ferrets and will never be with this Loving Pet in my life. I do not live in NYC and If I did would have to move away for this reason. Ferrets Make Me Very Happy . We are many friends in the Ferret world and here to stay . Thanks and please care about our pet ferrets . Posted for my Brutis Ferret and many more ferrets

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Karen Lamb

Comment:
As a ferret rescue organization owner/operator and having kept ferrets for nearly 20 years, I fully support the proposed amended Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City. As a nonprofit ferret rescue organization, our mission is to promote the well-being of the domestic ferret. In addition to providing shelter and veterinary care for unwanted ferrets, we actively support initiatives to educate the public on such misinformation as the domesticated ferret (mustelidae putorius furo) is a wild, dangerous animal. This is grossly inaccurate, as they pose no more risk to humans than other domesticated animals that are kept as pets, to include dogs and cats. Key to the safety of humans is the proper humane care for the animals, and the appropriate medical care, such as the rabies vaccination. We further support the restriction of commercial sales of ferrets, as often these animals are sold by individuals who may inadvertently contribute to misinformation (or lack of information) when interest is focused on monetary gain, rather than the welfare of the animal. Through adequate screening and education prior to pet ferret placement, much of this misinformation can be not only prevented but eliminated. Ferrets are amazingly enjoyable pets that bring similar human companionship and affection as experienced with dogs and cats. We are encouraged to learn that New York City is considering the legalization of domesticated ferret, and support all movements in this direction. Let's enable the residents of New York City to enjoy the same liberties and benefits of ferret ownership, as enjoyed throughout the rest of the state, and nearly all others. Let's make this a reality! Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Karen Lamb, Nirvana Ridge Ferret Rescue, Brandy Station, VA.

Laurie Schubert

Comment:
I believe that New York City should make ferrets legal as they make great pets for people....they are legal all over the country, and are less dangerous than dogs and have been domesticated almost as long. It would be wise to not allow pet stores to sell them as people pick them up as 'impulse buys' and then they end up in shelters, but people can get them from ferret breeders who make sure that a person knows what they are getting and how to take care of them properly. Please make ferrets legal to own in New York City.

Helene Raacke

Comment:
Dear Sirs/ Madams, I would like to strongly urge you to support the amendment 161.01(b)(4) to legalize Ferrets in NYC. I have owned Ferrets since 1985. My husband and I are both professionals who are fans of these silly, clean little animals. We are by no stretch of the imagination "fringe" but we are both allergic to cats. We own Dogs and have not had any problems with mixing Ferrets and Dogs. Ferrets are individuals who are to a one curious and full of life. They bond with each other by choice and they form tight bonds with us as their owners. Too many small animals are impulse buys and our shelters are filled with animals of all types. I believe the first step to introducing ferrets to this area would be to utilize Shelters as the primary stock source. Shelters will educate and support new owners over the course of the animal's life span. I find them to be invaluable when I have care questions. Due to their small size, many people who purchase Ferrets in pet stores are lead to believe that these are "caged" pets. These are not animals that can live full time in a cage. One would not do so to a kitten and expect it grow up to be a well socialized and loving cat. The best regulations would prevent pet stores from selling these animals unless stringent rules were applied: excellent nutritional and behavioral education to new owners, prevent overstocking at the store and a formal plan on handling unsold or sick stock. I support ensuring sterilization and de-scenting Ferrets. Ferrets may have health issues that require professional care and of course they require immunizations. By legalizing ferrets, you would be allowing current owners to access veterinarian care without fear of confiscation. Please legalize Ferrets in New York City in a thoughtful way. Sincerely, Helene Raacke

Eleanor Mead

Comment:
I have owned ferrets since they were made legal in MA and all I can say, is, I have owned many pets and ferrets are one of the BEST pets anyone could own! People against ferrets NEED to be educated and spend a day at a ferret shelter to learn about them and see they are all about enjoying life and having a good time! People ONLY hear the bad things in the news, never the good stuff! They are superb apartment pets and just require people to be responsible and smart when it comes to owning any pet! Little dogs will bite and are known for it, yet they are allowed, so NOT fair! Please, take the time to go visit a ferret shelter and see what a ferret is REALLY all about!!!
Agency: DOHMH

Robin Cornell

Comment:
I have had ferrets as pets for 16 years. I could not imagine my life without my ferrets. Their little faces are so beautiful to me. I look forward to going home every day from work so I can be with my ferrets. Ferrets are an ideal pet for an apartment dweller. They are small, clean and quiet. They sleep a lot too, but are active for short periods of time when like to play and wrestle with each other. It's OK to keep them in a cage while they're sleeping. I keep all kinds of hammocks and sleepy sacks in my ferrets' cages, so they like spending time there and feel safe. I do not think there is any logical reason to ban ferrets as pets. I do agree that pet stores should not be allowed to sell ferrets since they contribute to the problem of people impulsively buying pets they later decide they don't wish to keep. There are far too many unwanted pets already. Ferrets should also be spayed/neutered so they can't breed.

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suzanne beck

Comment:
Please allow spayed and neutered ferrets to live openly and please do not allow pet stores to sell them
Agency: DOHMH

Erin Trickett

Comment:
Regarding .01(b)(4), ferrets are good pets for responsible individuals, and the proposed stipulations will reflect a portion of that. However, I believe that the sale of ferrets should be limited to animal shelters at their discretion, as I have seen other cities struggle with impulse animal purchases (not just ferrets, but also rodents, birds, and snakes) that become abandoned and sent to the city shelters, where they become a financial burden as they are still termed 'exotics.' While allowing ferrets to be legal will lead to owners being responsible with their care, keeping pet stores from selling them will stop an increase in impulse pets that will turn back on the city. Thank you for reading.
Agency: DOHMH

Judy Garceau

Comment:
Please legalize ferrets in New York City. As a mother of five children, I have had a wide range of pets over the years. By far, my favorite was our ferrets. We had many over the years and I cherished each one. They are great pets...social, funny, loving, quiet. They pose no danger to wildlife and have been domesticated for thousands of years. Prohibiting pet shops from selling them would help deter impulse buying, therefore reducing the chance of any ending up in shelters. Thank you.

J Scheer

Comment:
As a Shelter operator and ferret owner for some 18 years, i have seen the results of people being "caught" having contraband animals; confiscation, euthanization. Some do get into the shelter system straining already thin resources. i agree with the stipulation of vaccine, and neutering of ferrets. I further wish to add the necessity of mandatory microchipping of ferrets, so that owners and records can be tracked in the event of theft, or the ferret getting lost or loose. It would also be helpful in the prosecution of abusers.
Agency: DOHMH

Brenna Wingett

Comment:
As an owner of ferrets, I can attest that they pose no risks to humans. All pets should be vaccinated and spayed/neutered. Most pet stores that sell ferrets already have them desexed, and all rescues ensure that the rescued animals are desexed. Ferrets are playful, curious animals, but they need owners who can care for them properly.There should me more education for people who choose to own ferrets. People should be allowed to adopt ferrets and care for them in NYC. Thank you so much for your time.
Agency: DOHMH

Cheryl Richardson

Comment:
I come before you today to ask that you give consideration to allowing neutered/spayed ferrets in New York. I would also VERY STRONGLY recommend that you forbid the sale of ferrets in pet stores to avoid what could be termed as a fad or impulse rush to purchase these neutered/spayed ferrets which may result in subsequent abandonment. I have owned a total of six ferrets over the past 9 years and have learned volumes about their behavior, needs, food requirements (they are obligate carnivores, and should never been fed fruits, vegetables, dairy or human food except for raw meats, or freeze dried meats). I would ask that for those who are well educated to their care and handling, medical requirements and diet, they are extremely loving, well mannered and extremely quiet pets. I presently have 3 male ferrets and while I have owned a menagerie in the past, including tortoises, guinea pigs, birds, wild rabbits and dogs and cats, I can say without a shred of doubt, that they are the most affectionate and devoted of all. No barking, screaming or howling ever, just the most faint noise that we ferret owners refer to as "dooking". A little warbling, quivery sound which indicates sheer joy. My three do not bite, and I will say that unless abused or neglected, or taunted as a rule, they do not bite. The show affection by dooking and by furiously licking the owner, and following close by. They sleep 20+ hours a day making them wonderful for knowledgeable individuals who work during the day. If I can be of further service, or provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Respectfully Submitted for consideration. Thank you for the opportunity to express my views.
Agency: DOHMH

Connie Martin

Comment:
Please reverse the current ban on ferret ownership in NYC. Ferrets are wonderful companion animals that provide hours of joy and amusement for so many people. I would however like to see a ban on the selling of ferrets from petstores as this would prevent any impulse purchases. This would also help to make sure the ferrets are with responsible and loving homes/people. If a ban on the sale of ferrets isn't possible please consider a law requiring the ferrets receive e all the necessary rabies and distempershots prior to purchase
Agency: DOHMH

Colleen Bak

Comment:
I would like to comment that I think spayed/neutered ferrets should be legal to keep as pets in nyc, but that they should not be sold in local pet stores.
Agency: DOHMH

Michele Katen

Comment:
I support the amendment to Article 161 to remove ferrets as a prohibited animal in NYC. There is no documentation that domesticated ferrets cause concern for public health. NYC pet stores sell food and other items for ferrets, so why not legalize them! They make wonderful pets. Hope this legalization will help efforts in California and Hawaii, where they are also prohibited.
Agency: DOHMH

Julie Burton

Comment:
I have owned 5 ferrets over the years and found them to be great pets - much like kittens in their behavior. They are especially suited to apartment living as they don't require much space. I believe the Dept. of Health should allow spayed/neutered ferrets to be owned in NYC. It would also be a god idea not to have ferrets sold in pet stores.

Patricia Shaskin

Comment:
I would like to show support for allowing domestic ferret ownership in New York City. I have been a ferret owner for 18 years. Ferrets are wonderful pets and companions. They are very smart and very clean animals. They do not cause any illness risk to humans. Domestic ferrets cannot survive outside on their own. I agree that they should be neutered and should have rabies shots. Ferrets can be trained to use a litter box so they do not need to be walked. They do not bark or chirp or make any noise so they are very good pets for those who live in apartments. Ferrets are loving animals and they have been brought me much joy.

Kelly Discher

Comment:
Hello, my name is Kelly Discher, and I would like to take this moment to appeal to you in considering lifting the ban on pet ferrets in New York City. Having had 6 ferrets over the last 15 years (and been godmother to 3 more), I can say with total certainty that they are the best of pets! Not only are they highly intelligent, but they also are very playful, fun, and form intense bonds with their owners and cagemates. I feel that allowing pet ferrets within the city should be allowed, assuming the ferret be spayed/neutered, and vaccinated for rabies, NOT ONLY for the safety and well-being of the people, but also for the animal itself. In addition, ferrets have very specific dietary, health, and care needs, so I agree that pet stores should NOT be allowed to sell pet ferrets, so as to avoid fad purchases and decrease the chance of the ferret being abused or abandoned. Personally, I would rather have a ferret than a conventional pet, as they couple the intelligence of a cat with the loyalty and playfulness of a dog, but all wrapped up in a package that rarely exceeds 3 pounds. So, thank you for considering my words, and I hope that soon I will see that the denizens of New York City can join me in enjoying the fuzzy joy they call "ferrets".

Lisa Parrish

Comment:
Please overturn the ban on ferrets in NYC! Yes, all pet ferrets should be spayed/neutered. Yes, you should ban pet store sales of ferrets as it encourages impulse buying by uniformed animal owners. Yes, responsible NYC citizens should be able to own these wonderful animals. I've had ferrets for 8 years; they are the most loving, intelligent, fun pets ever. They are sweet, and trainable. Unfortunately there are always bad pet guardians, but please don't continue to punish the majority of responsible pet parents who want to love and care for these amazing and cute critters. Ferrets are not a danger to anyone. They just want love. They really are the most playful pets ever.

Lorie Adams

Comment:
The Department of Health should allow spayed/ neutered ferrets. Over the last 15 years, I have owned and fostered 6 ferrets. They make wonderful household pets. They are friendly, gentle and endearing. If you have a pair of ferrets one does not need TV, because ferrets will amuse you to distraction! Ferrets need more care than a cat, but less than a dog. They are smart, and are easy to teach and train. They get along well with other friendly family pets. I also believe they should not be sold in pet stores, but adopted through shelters or rescue centers. A ferret should not be an impulse purchase, they are sensitive loving critters, they need gentle handling and loving attention. They need to be protected from hazards in the home, they are very inquisitive and given the opportunity, will get into things they shouldn't. It's kind of like having a two year old child running loose. Ferrets should not be confine to a cage 24/7, but let out to explore with supervision. They love to be outside, but only by leash and harness.Ferrets are wonderful company and should be permitted to have a loving, caring private home!

Rebecca Leon

Comment:
Years ago I owned a ferret. Had him for many years. I don't see anything wrong with ferrets being kept as pets, provided the owner has done their research and knows how to care for one. NYC should definitely lift the ban on domestic ferrets. If you can own a dog or a cat in the city, and various other types of animals as pets, like chinchillas, then why ban ferrets? People can be so ignorant, but it's a simple matter of just now knowing. Lift the ban. Let these furry little adorable creatures find homes in NY.

Laureta Anderson

Comment:
I strongly urge the Board of Health to amend Article 161 to remove spayed or neutered ferrets from the list of animals prohibited as pets. I also urge that pet stores not be allowed to sell ferrets. The purchase of any pet should be a considered, not impulse, decision. I was the owner of a neutered ferret, purchased on impulse by my son. My son gave the ferret to me when he was less than one year of age and I cared for him until his death from old age at age 7. He was a delightful pet, got along with our 3 cats and added much joy to our lives.

Tina Pence

Comment:
I am an Indiana resident, though I have traveled to New York City in the past. When making travel plans or deciding on residency, I also inquire as to whether or not ferrets are allowed, you see my ferrets travel with me, if ferrets are now allowed, I have to stay in a different area so that I am in compliance with the law. I have owned ferrets since early 2001. Our first couple of ferrets were actually pets of my daughters (she was 10 at the time we acquired our first ferret). Ferrets are terrific companion pets, I have stated in the past to friends, that a ferret is the best parts of cats, dogs and other small animals. For instance, you can litter box train a ferret (similar to a cat). You can teach a ferret tricks and they will follow you around (similar to a dog). When they are sleeping - up to 18 hours a day - you can cage your ferret (similar to a hamster or gerbil). You see they really are the best pet! A spayed/neutered ferret in a loving home brings much enjoyment. They are terrific for smaller spaced apartments and truly are docile and good with children. Thank you for your consideration.

Michelle Hay

Comment:
As a ferret owner for 15 years, I can not stress enough how important spaying/neutering is to this specific animal breed. These are highly intelligent and wonderful creatures that need well educated and caring families to land in. Ferrets are extremely tempting for "fad" purchases as they are so engaging. As a result, thousands of ferrets yearly are abandoned and end up in specialized shelters. All of my ferrets have been adopted and all have experienced some form of trauma from their previous owners. This is not done out of cruelty (mostly) but done out of ignorance. There is a general lack of knowledge regarding how much work these animals are to take care of. They require a substantial amount of interaction which is completely different than that of a guinea pig, however, many new pet owners don't know the difference. And teenager pet store clerks are hardly the best teachers to pass on that information. Save these wonderful creatures for an unhappy fare by passing the two best rules for their welfare. Spay / neutering and get them out of pet stores. Period.
Agency: DOHMH

Tillie Morse

Comment:
Department of Health, PLEASE allow spayed/neutered ferrets in NYC. I do think that it would be best if ferrets are not sold in pet stores to avoid fad, impulse purchases and subsequent abandonment. I have owned ferrets for many years and they make wonderful pets. Not for everyone as they are high maintenance and need time out of their cages and playtime every day. Fun, inteligent wonderful little animals.
Agency: DOHMH

Andrea Drossel-Shea

Comment:
RE: Animals Article 161 and Reportable Diseases and Conditions Article 11 Proposed rules/Ferrets Dear Commissioners: I want to support amendments to the above Articles to allow neutered/spayed domestic ferrets in New York City and to require they are vaccinated for rabies. I care about ferret welfare. Domestic ferrets are not a risk to the public. They are nice pets for owners who understand their needs. pet store personnel, especially in chain stores do not properly educate customers when they sell ferrets. I do not think they should be sold in any stores. The best way to get a ferret is to adopt it from a humane society or ferret shelter where they know a lot more about them and teach people to care for them properly. My husband and I have had 10 very individual ferrets as pets for over the span of the past 19 years. We have been blessed with their fun loving antics and considered them all a part of our family. Thank you Andrea Drossel-Shea Tel # 860 623-8592 (home)
Agency: DOHMH

Della Farney

Comment:
Dear Commissioner Bassett:
I am a licensed veterinarian with the state of Connecticut. I have treated domestic ferrets my entire career and believe they are wonderful companion animals when the owners are educated about their care and needs. I also have personally owned ferrets for over 25 years. I support allowing spayed and neutered ferrets in New York City, and support the annual rabies vaccination requirement. I do not support the sale of ferrets in pet stores. Store clerks do not adequately explain to prospective owners a ferret's specific needs, habits, and proper veterinary care. Ferrets are not guinea pigs or hamsters and as such should not be caged 24 hours a day. They are a pet comparable to cats in their intelligence and dietary needs (obligate meat eater) and dogs for their social needs (needing others to play and interact with daily). They require yearly vaccinations (rabies and canine distemper) and yearly examinations with a veterinarian. I recommend that ferrets only be sold or adopted with a valid rabies vaccination not given before 12 weeks of age and age-appropriate canine distemper vaccinations, both of which are only effective for 1 year. Vaccinating ferrets not only protect the human population against rabies but also dogs from canine distemper exposure. Please contact me if you have any questions.
Sincerely, Della Farney, DVM
Supporting Document:
vetletter.doc
Agency: DOHMH

January 13, 2015

Mary Travis Bassett, MD, MPH
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street – CN 31
Long Island, NY 11101-4132

Re: Animals (Article 161) and Reportable Diseases and Conditions (Article 11) Proposed Rules

Dear Commissioner Bassett:

I am a licensed veterinarian with the state of Connecticut. I have treated domestic ferrets my entire career and believe they are wonderful companion animals when the owners are educated about their care and needs. I also have personally owned ferrets for over 25 years.

I support allowing spayed and neutered ferrets in New York City, and support the annual rabies vaccination requirement.

I do not support the sale of ferrets in pet stores. Store clerks do not adequately explain to prospective owners a ferret's specific needs, habits, and proper veterinary care. Ferrets are not guinea pigs or hamsters and as such should not be caged 24 hours a day. They are a pet comparable to cats in their intelligence and dietary needs (obligate meat eater) and dogs for their social needs (needing others to play and interact with daily). They require yearly vaccinations (rabies and canine distemper) and yearly examinations with a veterinarian.

I recommend that ferrets only be sold or adopted with a valid rabies vaccination not given before 12 weeks of age and age-appropriate canine distemper vaccinations, both of which are only effective for 1 year. Vaccinating ferrets not only protect the human population against rabies but also dogs from canine distemper exposure.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Della Farney, DVM
68 Fieldstone Lane
Coventry, CT. 06238
Della.Farney@snet.net

Ann Gruden

Comment:
As a 30 year+ owner/shelterer of over 1,000 ferrets and even longer pet owner, I support repealing the ban on domestic ferrets in NYC; not allowing commercial sales; requiring they be altered; and enforcing NY state rabies vaccination regulations. Facts support this rational, humane rule change. Ferrets are legal throughout NY and the US. The very few remaining bans put in place over 25 years ago are being successively eliminated following the 1998 ferret rabies protocols established by NASPHV. Further, ferrets are specifically categorized as domestic animals within the same paragraph as dogs and cats within the Compendium of Rabies Animal Prevention and Control (Ref: 2011 - Part I. Rabies Prevention and Control - A. Principles of Rabies Prevention and Control - 5. Domestic Animal Vaccination - pg 4 attached pdf). In today's highly mobile society, the average person would not even consider asking "is my pet legal" when moving after having purchased it at a pet store or adopting from a humane organization. How confusing to a family to explain abandoning an animal simply due to relocation. Ownership restrictions within the same state seem particularly capricious. Unfathomable is why an individual may possess a horse in NYC, but not a ferret. I have owned all sorts of animals in over 60 years including horses. I can seriously state from experience, on a potential “danger” scale of 1 - 10 ferrets come in at less than 1, cats at about 2, dogs based on size at 2.5 - 3.5 and horses at about a 6. And I have lived with some seriously abused ferrets. Unquestionably, there are ferrets living within NYC. My guess is some owners are unaware they are illegal. Those who do know might very well not be obtaining required rabies vaccinations due to fear of discovery. Public outreach efforts to enforce vaccination mandates become difficult as long as ferrets are considered illegal. This state of affairs is not in the best interest of public health. It is not in ferrets' best interest to be offered for sale as the latest new "fad" pet as a result of a publicity" bubble or “marketing.” That is inhumane. Irrespective of what some like to suggest, businesses do not earn much in profit from a ferret purchase as mark-ups are rather insignificant. Unfortunately, ferrets are sold and promoted in order to sell far more profitable products: food, cages, bedding and toys. Yet, no mention is ever made to prospective buyers of the significant veterinary care ferrets frequently require by their 3rd to 4th year of age. Thus the current trend is to reduce pet abandonment and the ensuing expense to municipal budgets due to "impulse" buying by eliminating commercial pet sales particularly in large metropolitan areas. Animal welfare organizations applaud and support such actions that ensure potential owners are adequately screened and educated prior to pet placement. It's a win for the public, municipalities and the animals as well.
Supporting Document:
rabiescompendium.pdf
Agency: DOHMH

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of STATE PUBLIC HEALTH VETERINARIANS, INC.

May 31, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Public Health Veterinarians
State Epidemiologists
State Veterinarians
Other Parties Interested in Rabies Prevention and Control

FROM: Catherine M. Brown, DVM, MSc, MPH, Chair
Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control Committee

SUBJECT: *Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, 2011*

The National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) is pleased to provide the 2011 revision of the Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control for your use and for distribution to practicing veterinarians, wildlife rehabilitators, animal welfare organizations, and officials in animal control, public health, wildlife management, and agriculture in your state. This document is reviewed and revised as necessary, and the most current version replaces all previous versions. This cover memo summarizes the most notable changes that were made to the document and provides updates on other rabies issues.

COMPENDIUM CHANGES

Part I A.1. The national case definition for animal rabies was added for clarification of how rabies cases are defined for public health surveillance purposes.

Part I A.9. was expanded to: clarify that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) rabies laboratory is available for confirmatory testing and on an emergency basis to expedite exposure management decisions; include information on testing methodology appropriate for field testing of surveillance specimens; and to clarify that there are no reliable ante mortem rabies tests available for use in animals.

Part I A.11. was expanded to include additional research topics that warrant further study.

Part III: The table of rabies vaccines licensed and marketed in the U.S. was updated for 2011.

Additional references have been added to provide scientific support for information provided in the document.

RABIES UPDATES

The fifth World Rabies Day will be on September 28, 2011. More information is available at: http://www.worldrabiesday.org.

The 22nd annual international conference on Rabies in the Americas (RITA) is scheduled for October 16-21, 2011 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. More information is available at: http://www.rabiesintheamericas.org/.

CDC's Rabies Laboratory is attempting to collect specimens to evaluate the potential for rabies transmission via milk from lactating animals. Over the past 15 years, CDC has received mammary tissue and unpasteurized milk from approximately 1 rabid cow per year. To date, no rabies virus antigen or nucleic acids have been detected. However, continued collection of appropriate samples is critical to obtain a sufficient sample size to make evidence based recommendations. When rabies is suspected in a lactating animal, milk and mammary tissue should be collected and stored. If rabies is diagnosed, the milk and mammary tissue should be shipped on dry ice to:

Dr. Charles E. Rupprecht
DASH, Building 18, Room SSB218
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30333
(404) 639-1050

Enhanced surveillance of the rabies virus variants currently circulating in the U.S. is critical for detecting new or introduced rabies virus variants. CDC requests an aliquot of CNS tissue from: rabid domestic animals (especially dogs); less common non-reservoir species (e.g. ruminants); and, from rabid carnivores in areas where bats are the only enzootic rabies reservoir, for antigenic and phylogenetic characterization. In addition, to better evaluate the potential of certain species groups to transmit rabies, the entire head of any rodent or lagomorph testing positive for rabies should be submitted to evaluate the presence of rabies virus in salivary glands. Where feasible, rabies diagnostic laboratories should store the heads of highly suspect rodents and lagomorphs until testing is completed. Positive specimens should be sent to CDC at the above address for further analysis.

Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, 2011*

National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc. (NASPHV)

Rabies is a fatal viral zoonosis and a serious public health problem *(1).* All mammals are believed to be susceptible to the disease, and for purposes of this document, use of the term "animal" refers to mammals. The disease is an acute, progressive encephalitis caused by a lyssavirus. Rabies virus is the most important lyssavirus globally. In the United States, multiple rabies virus variants are maintained in wild mammalian reservoir populations such as raccoons, skunks, foxes, and bats. Although the U.S. has been declared free of canine rabies virus variant transmission, there is always a risk of reintroduction of these variants *(2-6).*

The virus is usually transmitted from animal to animal through bites. The incubation period is highly variable. In domestic animals it is generally 3-12 weeks, but can range from several days to months, rarely exceeding 6 months *(7)*. Rabies is communicable during the period of salivary shedding of rabies virus. Experimental and historic evidence document that dogs, cats, and ferrets shed virus a few days prior to clinical onset and during illness. Clinical signs of rabies are variable and include inappetance, dysphagia, cranial nerve deficits, abnormal behavior, ataxia, paralysis, altered vocalization, and seizures. Progression to death is rapid. There are currently no known effective rabies antiviral drugs.

The recommendations in this compendium serve as a basis for animal rabies prevention and control programs throughout the United States and facilitate standardization of procedures among jurisdictions, thereby contributing to an effective national rabies control program. This document is reviewed and revised as necessary. The most current version replaces all previous versions. These recommendations do not supersede state and local laws or requirements. Principles of rabies prevention and control are detailed in Part I; recommendations for parenteral vaccination procedures are presented in Part II; and all animal rabies vaccines licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and marketed in the United States are listed and described in Part III.

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American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL)
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)
National Animal Control Association (NACA)

Part I. Rabies Prevention and Control

A. PRINCIPLES OF RABIES PREVENTION AND CONTROL

1. CASE DEFINITION: An animal is determined to be rabid after diagnosis by a qualified laboratory as specified in Part I.A.9. The national case definition for animal rabies requires laboratory confirmation by either:

- A positive direct fluorescent antibody test (preferably performed on central nervous system tissue); or
- Isolation of rabies virus (in cell culture or in a laboratory animal *(8)*.

2. RABIES EXPOSURE: Rabies is transmitted when the virus is introduced into bite wounds, open cuts in skin, or onto mucous membranes from saliva or other potentially infectious material such as neural tissue *(9)*. Questions regarding possible exposures should be directed promptly to state or local public health authorities.

3. PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION: Essential components of rabies prevention and control include ongoing public education, responsible pet ownership, routine veterinary care and vaccination, and professional continuing education. The majority of animal and human exposures to rabies can be prevented by raising awareness concerning: rabies transmission routes, avoiding contact with wildlife, and following appropriate veterinary care. Prompt recognition and reporting of possible exposures to medical professionals and local public health authorities is critical.

4. HUMAN RABIES PREVENTION: Rabies in humans can be prevented either by eliminating exposures to rabid animals or by providing exposed persons with prompt local treatment of wounds combined with the appropriate administration of human rabies immune globulin and vaccine. Exposure assessment should occur before postexposure rabies prophylaxis (PEP) is initiated and should include discussion between medical providers and public health officials. The rationale for recommending preexposure prophylaxis and details of both pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis administration can be found in the current recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) *(9,10)*. These recommendations, along with information concerning the current local and regional epidemiology of animal rabies and the availability of human rabies biologics, are available from state health departments.

5. DOMESTIC ANIMAL VACCINATION: Multiple vaccines are licensed for use in domestic animal species. Vaccines available include: inactivated or modified live virus vectored products; products for intramuscular and subcutaneous administration; products with durations of immunity from one to 4 years; and products with varying minimum age of vaccination. The recommended vaccination procedures and the licensed animal vaccines are specified in Parts II and III of this compendium, respectively. Local governments should initiate and maintain effective programs to ensure vaccination of all dogs, cats, and ferrets and to remove strays and unwanted animals. Such procedures in the United States have reduced laboratory confirmed cases of rabies in dogs from 6,949 in 1947 to 93 in 2009 *(2)*. Because more rabies cases are reported annually involving cats (274 in 2009) than dogs, vaccination of cats should be required *(2)*. Animal shelters and animal control authorities should establish policies to ensure that adopted animals are vaccinated against rabies.

6. RABIES IN VACCINATED ANIMALS: Rabies is rare in vaccinated animals *(11-13)*. If such an event is suspected, it should be reported to public health officials; the vaccine manufacturer; and USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Center for Veterinary Biologics (Internet: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/vet_biologics/vb_adverse_event.shtml; telephone: 800-752-6255). The laboratory diagnosis should be confirmed and the virus variant characterized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) rabies reference laboratory. A thorough epidemiologic investigation

including documentation of the animal's vaccination history and a description of potential rabies exposures should be conducted.

7. RABIES IN WILDLIFE: The control of rabies among wildlife reservoirs is difficult *(14)*. Vaccination of free-ranging wildlife or selective population reduction is useful in some situations *(15)*, but the success of such procedures depends on the circumstances surrounding each rabies outbreak (see Part I. C.). Because of the risk of rabies in wild animals (especially raccoons, skunks, coyotes, foxes, and bats), the American Veterinary Medical Association, American Public Health Association, Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, National Animal Control Association and the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians strongly recommend the enactment and enforcement of state laws prohibiting their importation, distribution, translocation, and private ownership.

8. RABIES SURVEILLANCE: Enhanced laboratory-based rabies surveillance and variant typing are essential components of rabies prevention and control programs. Accurate and timely information and reporting is necessary to: guide human PEP decisions; determine the management of potentially exposed animals; aid in emerging pathogen discovery; describe the epidemiology of the disease; and assess the need for and effectiveness of vaccination programs for domestic animals and wildlife. Every animal submitted for rabies testing should be reported to CDC to evaluate surveillance trends. Electronic laboratory reporting and notification of animal rabies surveillance data should be implemented *(16)*. Optimal information on animals submitted for rabies testing should include species, point location, vaccination history, rabies virus variant (if rabid), and human or domestic animal exposures. Rabid animals with a history of importation within 60 days into the United States are immediately notifiable by state health departments to CDC; all indigenous cases should follow standard notification protocols *(17)*. Integration with standard public health reporting and notification systems should facilitate the transmission of the above data elements.

9. RABIES DIAGNOSIS:

a) The direct fluorescent antibody (DFA) test is the gold standard for rabies diagnosis. The DFA test should be performed in accordance with the established national standardized protocol (http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/docs/standard_dfa_protocol_rabies.pdf) by a qualified laboratory that has been designated by the local or state health department *(18,19)*. Animals submitted for rabies testing should be euthanized *(20,21)* in such a way as to maintain the integrity of the brain so that the laboratory can recognize the anatomical parts. Except in the case of very small animals, such as bats, only the head or brain (including brain stem) should be submitted to the laboratory. To facilitate prompt laboratory testing, submitted specimens should be stored and shipped under refrigeration without delay. The need to thaw frozen specimens will delay testing. Chemical fixation of tissues should be avoided to prevent significant testing delays and because it might preclude reliable testing. Questions about testing of fixed tissues should be directed to the local rabies laboratory or public health department.

b) Rabies testing should be available on an emergency basis to expedite exposure management decisions *(18)*. When confirmatory testing is needed by state health departments (e.g., inconclusive results, unusual species, mass exposures), the CDC rabies laboratory can provide results within 24 hours of submission *(22)*.

c) A direct rapid immunohistochemical test (DRIT) is being used by trained field personnel in surveillance programs for specimens not involved in human or domestic animal exposures *(23-26)*. All positive DRIT results need to be confirmed by DFA testing at a qualified laboratory.

d) Currently, there are no USDA licensed rapid test kits commercially available for rabies diagnosis. Unlicensed tests should not be used due to several concerns: the sensitivity/specificity are not known; the tests have not been validated against current standard methods; the excretion of virus in the saliva is intermittent and the amount varies over time; any test result would need to be confirmed by more

reliable methods such as DFA testing on brain tissue; and the interpretation of results may place exposed animals and persons at risk.

10. RABIES SEROLOGY: Some jurisdictions require evidence of vaccination and rabies virus antibodies for animal importation purposes. Rabies virus antibody titers are indicative of a response to vaccine or infection. Titers do not directly correlate with protection because other immunologic factors also play a role in preventing rabies, and our abilities to measure and interpret those other factors are not well-developed. Therefore, evidence of circulating rabies virus antibodies in animals should not be used as a substitute for current vaccination in managing rabies exposures or determining the need for booster vaccinations *(27-30)*.

11. RABIES RESEARCH: Information derived from well-designed studies is essential for the development of science-based recommendations. Data are needed in several areas including: viral shedding periods for domestic livestock and lagomorphs; potential shedding of virus in milk; earliest age at which rabies vaccination is effective and protective effect of maternal antibody; duration of immunity; postexposure prophylaxis protocols for domestic animals; models for treatment of clinical rabies; extra label vaccine use in domestic animals and wildlife rabies reservoirs; host-pathogen adaptations and dynamics; and the ecology of wildlife rabies reservoir species, especially in relation to the use of oral rabies vaccines.

B. PREVENTION AND CONTROL METHODS IN DOMESTIC AND CONFINED ANIMALS

1. PREEXPOSURE VACCINATION AND MANAGEMENT: Parenteral animal rabies vaccines should be administered only by or under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian on premises. Rabies vaccinations may also be administered under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian to animals held in animal control shelters before release. The veterinarian signing a rabies vaccination certificate must ensure that the person administering vaccine is identified on the certificate and is appropriately trained in vaccine storage, handling, administration, and in the management of adverse events. This practice assures that a qualified and responsible person can be held accountable for properly vaccinating the animal. Within 28 days after initial vaccination, a peak rabies virus antibody titer is reached, and the animal can be considered immunized *(29,31-33)*. An animal is currently vaccinated and is considered immunized if the initial vaccination was administered at least 28 days previously or booster vaccinations have been administered in accordance with this compendium.

Regardless of the age of the animal at initial vaccination, a booster vaccination should be administered 1 year later (see Parts II and III for vaccines and procedures). No laboratory or epidemiologic data exist to support the annual or biennial administration of 3- or 4-year vaccines after the initial series. Because a rapid anamnestic response is expected, an animal is considered currently vaccinated immediately after a booster vaccination *(34)*.

a) DOGS, CATS AND FERRETS

All dogs, cats, and ferrets should be vaccinated against rabies and revaccinated in accordance with Part III of this compendium. If a previously vaccinated animal is overdue for a booster, it should be revaccinated. Immediately after the booster, the animal is considered currently vaccinated and should be placed on a booster schedule, depending on the labeled duration of the vaccine used.

b) LIVESTOCK

All horses should be vaccinated against rabies *(35)*. Livestock, including species for which licensed vaccines are not available, that have frequent contact with humans (e.g., in petting zoos, fairs, and other public exhibitions) should be vaccinated against rabies *(36,37)*. Consideration should also be given to vaccinating livestock that are particularly valuable.

c) CAPTIVE WILD ANIMALS AND HYBRIDS (the offspring of wild animals crossbred to domestic animals).

(1) Wild animals or hybrids should not be kept as pets *(38-40)*. No parenteral rabies vaccines are licensed for use in wild animals or hybrids *(41)*.

(2) Animals that are maintained in exhibits and in zoological parks and are not completely excluded from all contact with rabies vectors can become infected. Moreover, wild animals might be incubating rabies when initially captured; therefore, wild-caught animals susceptible to rabies should be quarantined for a minimum of 6 months. Employees who work with animals at such facilities should receive preexposure rabies vaccination. The use of pre- or postexposure rabies vaccinations for handlers who work with animals at such facilities might reduce the need for euthanasia of captive animals that expose handlers. Carnivores and bats should be housed in a manner that precludes direct contact with the public *(36,37)*.

2. STRAY ANIMALS: Stray dogs, cats, and ferrets should be removed from the community. Local health departments and animal control officials can enforce the removal of strays more effectively if owned animals are required to have identification and are confined or kept on leash. Strays should be impounded for at least 3 business days to determine if human exposure has occurred and to give owners sufficient time to reclaim animals.

3. IMPORTATION AND INTERSTATE MOVEMENT OF ANIMALS:

a) INTERNATIONAL. CDC regulates the importation of dogs and cats into the United States (*5*). Importers of dogs must comply with rabies vaccination requirements (42 CFR, Part 71.51[c] [http://www.cdc.gov/animalimportation/dogs.html]) and complete CDC form 75.37 (http://www.cdc.gov/animalimportation/pdf/dog-import.pdf). These regulations require dogs imported from rabies endemic countries to be vaccinated for rabies and confined for varying timeframes depending on age, prior vaccination status, and country of origin. The appropriate health official of the state of destination should be notified within 72 hours of the arrival of any imported dog required to be placed in confinement under these regulations. Failure of the owner to comply with these confinement requirements should be promptly reported to the Division of Global Migration and Quarantine, CDC (telephone: 404-639-4528 or 404-639-4537).

Federal regulations alone are insufficient to prevent the introduction of rabid animals into the United States *(3,4,42,43)*. All imported dogs and cats are subject to state and local laws governing rabies and should be currently vaccinated against rabies in accordance with this compendium. Failure of the owner to comply with state or local requirements should be referred to the appropriate state or local official.

b) AREAS WITH DOG-TO-DOG RABIES TRANSMISSION. Canine rabies virus variants have been eliminated in the United States *(2,6)*. Rabid dogs have been introduced into the continental United States from areas with dog-to-dog rabies transmission *(3,4,42,43)*. The movement of dogs for the purposes of adoption or sale from areas with dog-dog rabies transmission increases the risk of introducing canine-transmitted rabies to areas where it does not currently exist and should be prohibited.

c) INTERSTATE. Before interstate (including commonwealths and territories) movement, dogs, cats, ferrets, and horses should be currently vaccinated against rabies in accordance with this compendium's recommendations (see Part I. B.1.). Animals in transit should be accompanied by a currently valid NASPHV Form 51, Rabies Vaccination Certificate (http://www.nasphv.org/Documents/RabiesVacCert.pdf). When an interstate health certificate or certificate of veterinary inspection is required, it should contain the same rabies vaccination information as Form 51.

4. ADJUNCT PROCEDURES: Methods or procedures that enhance rabies control include the following (http://www.rabiesblueprint.com/spip.php?article119):

a) IDENTIFICATION. Dogs, cats, and ferrets should be identified (e.g., metal or plastic tags or microchips) to allow for verification of rabies vaccination status.

b) LICENSURE. Registration or licensure of all dogs, cats, and ferrets is an integral component of an effective rabies control program. A fee is frequently charged for such licensure, and revenues collected are used to maintain rabies or animal control activities. Evidence of current vaccination should be an essential prerequisite to licensure.

c) CANVASSING. House-to-house canvassing by animal control officials facilitates enforcement of vaccination and licensure requirements.

d) CITATIONS. Citations are legal summonses issued to owners for violations, including the failure to vaccinate or license their animals. The authority for officers to issue citations should be an integral part of each animal control program.

e) ANIMAL CONTROL. All local jurisdictions should incorporate stray animal control, leash laws, animal bite prevention, and training of personnel in their programs.

f) PUBLIC EDUCATION. All local jurisdictions should incorporate education covering responsible pet ownership, bite prevention, and appropriate veterinary care in their programs.

5. POSTEXPOSURE MANAGEMENT: This section refers to any animal exposed (see Part I.A.2.) to a confirmed or suspected rabid animal. Wild mammalian carnivores or bats that are not available or suitable for testing should be regarded as rabid animals.

a) DOGS, CATS AND FERRETS. Any illness in an exposed animal should be reported immediately to the local health department. If signs suggestive of rabies develop (e.g., paralysis, seizures, etc.), the animal should be euthanized and the head shipped for testing as described in Part I.A.9.

(1) Dogs, cats, and ferrets that have never been vaccinated and are exposed to a rabid animal should be euthanized immediately. If the owner is unwilling to have this done, the animal should be placed in strict isolation for 6 months. Isolation in this context refers to confinement in an enclosure that precludes direct contact with people and other animals. Rabies vaccine should be administered upon entry into isolation or up to 28 days before release to comply with preexposure vaccination recommendations (see Part I.B.1.a.). There are currently no USDA licensed biologics for postexposure prophylaxis of previously unvaccinated domestic animals, and there is evidence that the use of vaccine alone will not reliably prevent the disease in these animals *(44)*.

(2) Animals overdue for a booster vaccination should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis based upon severity of exposure, time elapsed since last vaccination, number of previous vaccinations, current health status, and local rabies epidemiology to determine need for euthanasia or immediate revaccination and observation/isolation.

(3) Dogs, cats, and ferrets that are currently vaccinated should be revaccinated immediately, kept under the owner's control, and observed for 45 days. The rationale for an observation period is based in part on the potential for: overwhelming viral challenge, incomplete vaccine efficacy, improper vaccine administration, variable host immunocompetence, and immune-mediated fatality (i.e., early death phenomenon) *(12,45-47)*.

b) LIVESTOCK. All species of livestock are susceptible to rabies; cattle and horses are the most frequently reported infected species *(2)*. Any illness in an exposed animal should be reported immediately to the local health and agriculture officials. If signs suggestive of rabies develop, the animal should be euthanized and the head shipped for testing as described in Part I.A.9.

(1) Unvaccinated livestock should be euthanized immediately. If the animal is not euthanized, it should be observed and confined on a case-by-case basis for 6 months.

(2) Livestock exposed to a rabid animal and currently vaccinated with a vaccine approved by USDA for that species should be revaccinated immediately and observed for 45 days.

(3) Multiple rabid animals in a herd or herbivore-to-herbivore transmission are uncommon *(48)*; therefore, restricting the rest of the herd if a single animal has been exposed to or infected by rabies is usually not necessary.

(4) Handling and consumption of tissues from exposed animals might carry a risk for rabies transmission. Risk factors depend in part on the site(s) of exposure, amount of virus present, severity of wounds, and whether sufficient contaminated tissue has been excised. If an exposed animal is to be custom or home-slaughtered for consumption, it should be done immediately after exposure, and all tissues should be cooked thoroughly. Persons handling exposed animals, carcasses, and tissues should use barrier precautions *(49,50)*. Historically, federal guidelines for meat inspectors required that any animal known to have been exposed to rabies within 8 months be rejected for slaughter *(51)*. USDA Food and Inspection Service (FSIS) and state meat inspectors should be notified if such exposures occur in food animals before slaughter.

Rabies virus is widely distributed in tissues of rabid animals *(52-54)*. Tissues and products from a rabid animal should not be used for human or animal consumption *(55,56)* or transplantation *(57)*. Pasteurization and cooking will inactivate rabies virus *(58)*; therefore, inadvertently drinking pasteurized milk or eating thoroughly cooked animal products does not constitute a rabies exposure.

c) OTHER ANIMALS. Other mammals exposed to a rabid animal should be euthanized immediately. Animals maintained in USDA-licensed research facilities or accredited zoological parks should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis in consultation with public health authorities. Management options may include isolation, observation, or administration of rabies biologics.

6. MANAGEMENT OF ANIMALS THAT BITE HUMANS:

a) Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets. Rabies virus is excreted in the saliva of infected dogs, cats, and ferrets during illness and/or for only a few days before illness or death *(59-61)*. Regardless of rabies vaccination status, a healthy dog, cat, or ferret that exposes a person should be confined and observed daily for 10 days from the time of the exposure *(62)*; administration of rabies vaccine to the animal is not recommended during the observation period to avoid confusing signs of rabies with rare adverse reactions *(13)*. Any illness in the animal should be reported immediately to the local health department. Such animals should be evaluated by a veterinarian at the first sign of illness during confinement. If signs suggestive of rabies develop, the animal should be euthanized and the head submitted for testing as described in Part I.A.9. Any stray or unwanted dog, cat, or ferret that exposes a person may be euthanized immediately and the head submitted for rabies examination.

b) Other Animals. Other animals that might have exposed a person to rabies should be reported immediately to the local health department. Management of animals other than dogs, cats, and ferrets depends on the species, the circumstances of the exposure, the epidemiology of rabies in the area, the exposing animal's history, current health status, and the animal's potential for exposure to rabies. The shedding period for rabies virus is undetermined for most species. Previous vaccination of these animals might not preclude the necessity for euthanasia and testing.

7. OUTBREAK PREVENTION AND CONTROL. The emergence of new rabies virus variants or the introduction of non-indigenous viruses poses a significant risk to humans, domestic animals, and wildlife *(63-70)*. A rapid and comprehensive response includes the following measures *(71)*:

a) Characterize the virus at the national reference laboratory.
b) Identify and control the source of the introduction.
c) Enhance laboratory-based surveillance in wild and domestic animals.
d) Increase animal rabies vaccination rates.
e) Restrict the movement of animals.
f) Evaluate the need for vector population reduction.
g) Coordinate a multiagency response.
h) Provide public and professional outreach and education.

8. DISASTER RESPONSE: Animals might be displaced during and after man-made or natural disasters and require emergency sheltering (http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/petshelters.asp and http://www.avma.org/disaster/default.asp) *(72)*. Animal rabies vaccination and exposure histories often are not available for displaced animals. Disaster response creates situations where animal caretakers might lack appropriate training and preexposure vaccination. In such situations, it is critical to implement and coordinate rabies prevention and control measures to reduce the risk of rabies transmission and the need for human PEP. Such measures include actions to:

a) Coordinate relief efforts of individuals and organizations with the local emergency operations center before deployment.
b) Examine each animal at a triage site for possible bite injuries or signs of rabies.
c) Isolate animals exhibiting signs of rabies, pending evaluation by a veterinarian.
d) Ensure that all animals have a unique identifier.
e) Administer a rabies vaccination to all dogs, cats and ferrets unless reliable proof of vaccination exists.
f) Adopt minimum standards for animal caretakers as feasible, including personal protective equipment, preexposure rabies vaccination, and appropriate training in animal handling *(73)*.
g) Maintain documentation of animal disposition and location (e.g., returned to owner, died or euthanized, adopted, relocated to another shelter, and address of new location).
h) Provide facilities to confine and observe animals involved in exposures (see Part I.B.6.).
i) Report human exposures to appropriate public health authorities (see Part I.A.3.).

C. PREVENTION AND CONTROL METHODS RELATED TO WILDLIFE

The public should be warned not to handle or feed wild mammals. Wild mammals and hybrids that expose persons, pets, or livestock should be considered for euthanasia and rabies diagnosis. A person exposed by any wild mammal should immediately report the incident to a healthcare provider who, in consultation with public health authorities, can evaluate the need for PEP (*9,10)*.

Translocation of infected wildlife has contributed to the spread of rabies *(63-68,74)*; therefore, the translocation of known terrestrial rabies reservoir species should be prohibited. Whereas state regulated wildlife rehabilitators and nuisance wildlife control operators may play a role in a comprehensive rabies control program, minimum standards for persons who handle wild mammals should include rabies vaccination, appropriate training, and continuing education.

1. CARNIVORES: The use of oral rabies vaccines (ORV) for the mass vaccination of free-ranging wildlife should be considered in selected situations, with the approval of the appropriate state agencies *(14,75)*. There have been documented successes using ORV to control rabies in wildlife in North America *(75-78)*. The currently licensed vaccinia-vectored ORV is labeled for use in raccoons and coyotes. The distribution of ORV should be based on scientific assessments of the target species and followed by timely and appropriate analysis of surveillance data; such results should be provided to all stakeholders. In addition, parenteral vaccination (trap-vaccinate-release) of wildlife rabies reservoirs may be integrated into coordinated ORV programs to enhance their effectiveness. Continuous and persistent programs for trapping

or poisoning wildlife are not effective in reducing wildlife rabies reservoirs on a statewide basis. However, limited population control in high-contact areas (e.g., picnic grounds, camps, and suburban areas) might be indicated for the removal of selected high-risk species of wildlife. State agriculture, public health, and wildlife agencies should be consulted for planning, coordination, and evaluation of vaccination or population reduction programs *(14)*.

2. BATS: From the 1950's to date, indigenous rabid bats have been reported from every state except Hawaii and have caused rabies in at least 43 humans in the United States *(79-92)*. Bats should be excluded appropriately from houses, public buildings, and adjacent structures to prevent direct association with humans *(93,94)*. Such structures should then be made bat-proof by sealing entrances used by bats. Controlling rabies in bats through programs designed to reduce bat populations is neither feasible nor desirable.

Part II. Recommendations for Parenteral Rabies Vaccination Procedures

A. VACCINE ADMINISTRATION: All animal rabies vaccines should be restricted to use by or under the direct supervision of a veterinarian *(95)*, except as recommended in Part I.B.1.

B. VACCINE SELECTION: Part III lists all vaccines licensed by USDA and marketed in the United States at the time of publication. New vaccine approvals or changes in label specifications made subsequent to publication should be considered as part of this list. Any of the listed vaccines can be used for revaccination, even if the product is not the same as previously administered. Vaccines used in state and local rabies control programs should have at least a 3-year duration of immunity. This constitutes the most effective method of increasing the proportion of immunized dogs and cats in any population *(96)*. No laboratory or epidemiologic data exist to support the annual or biennial administration of 3- or 4-year vaccines following the initial series.

C. ADVERSE EVENTS: Currently, no epidemiologic association exists between a particular licensed vaccine product and adverse events *(13,97-98)*. Although rare, adverse events including vomiting, injection site swelling, lethargy, hypersensitivity, and rabies in a previously vaccinated animal have been reported. Adverse events should be reported to the vaccine manufacturer and to USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Center for Veterinary Biologics (Internet: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/vet_biologics/vb_adverse_event.shtml; telephone: 800-752-6255). No contraindication to rabies vaccination exists. Animals with a previous history of anaphylaxis can be medically managed and observed after vaccination *(46)*.

D. WILDLIFE AND HYBRID ANIMAL VACCINATION: The safety and efficacy of parenteral rabies vaccination of wildlife and hybrids have not been established, and no rabies vaccines are licensed for these animals. Zoos or research institutions may establish vaccination programs to attempt to protect valuable animals, but these should not replace appropriate public health activities that protect humans (see Part I.B.1.c.2).

E. ACCIDENTAL HUMAN EXPOSURE TO VACCINE: Human exposure to parenteral animal rabies vaccines listed in Part III does not constitute a risk for rabies virus infection. Human exposure to vaccinia-vectored oral rabies vaccines should be reported to state health officials *(100,101)*.

F. RABIES CERTIFICATE: All agencies and veterinarians should use NASPHV Form 51 (revised 2007), Rabies Vaccination Certificate, or an equivalent. This form can be obtained from vaccine manufacturers, NASPHV (http://www.nasphv.org/Documents/RabiesVacCert.pdf), or CDC (http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/pdf/nasphv_form51.pdf). The form must be completed in full and signed by the administering or supervising veterinarian. Computer generated forms containing the same information are also acceptable.

III.Rabies Vaccines Licensed and Marketed in the U.S., 2011

Product Name	Produced by	Marketed by	For Use In	Dosage	Age at Primary Vaccination[a]	Booster Recommended	Route of Inoculation
A) MONOVALENT (Inactivated)							
RABVAC 1	Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. License No. 112	Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.	Dogs Cats	1 ml 1 ml	3 months[b] 3 months	Annually Annually	IM[c] or SC[d] IM or SC
RABVAC 3	Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. License No. 112	Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.	Dogs Cats Horses	1 ml 1 ml 2 ml	3 months 3 months 3 months	1 year later & triennially 1 year later & triennially Annually	IM or SC IM or SC IM
RABVAC 3 TF	Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. License No. 112	Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.	Dogs Cats Horses	1 ml 1 ml 2 ml	3 months 3 months 3 months	1 year later & triennially 1 year later & triennially Annually	IM or SC IM or SC IM
CONTINUUM RABIES	Intervet, Incorporated License No. 165A	Intervet, Incorporated	Dogs Cats	1 ml 1 ml	3 months 3 months	1 year later & triennially 1 year later & quadrennially	SC SC
EQUI-RAB	Intervet, Incorporated License No. 165A	Intervet, Incorporated	Horses	1 ml	4 months	Annually	IM
PRORAB-1	Intervet, Incorporated License No. 165A	Intervet, Incorporated	Dogs Cats Sheep	1 ml 1 ml 2 ml	3 months 3 months 3 months	Annually Annually Annually	IM or SC IM or SC IM
DEFENSOR 1	Pfizer, Incorporated License No. 189	Pfizer, Incorporated	Dogs Cats	1 ml 1 ml	3 months 3 months	Annually Annually	IM or SC SC
DEFENSOR 3	Pfizer, Incorporated License No. 189	Pfizer, Incorporated	Dogs Cats Sheep Cattle	1 ml 1 ml 2 ml 2 ml	3 months 3 months 3 months 3 months	1 year later & triennially 1 year later & triennially Annually Annually	IM or SC SC IM IM
RABDOMUN	Pfizer, Incorporated License No. 189	Schering-Plough Animal Health	Dogs Cats Sheep Cattle	1 ml 1 ml 2 ml 2 ml	3 months 3 months 3 months 3 months	1 year later & triennially 1 year later & triennially Annually Annually	IM or SC SC IM IM
RABDOMUN 1	Pfizer, Incorporated License No. 189	Schering-Plough Animal Health	Dogs Cats	1 ml 1 ml	3 months 3 months	Annually Annually	IM or SC SC
IMRAB 1	Merial, Incorporated License No. 298	Merial, Incorporated	Dogs Cats	1 ml 1 ml	3 months 3 months	Annually Annually	SC SC
IMRAB 1 TF	Merial, Incorporated License No. 298	Merial, Incorporated	Dogs Cats	1 ml 1 ml	3 months 3 months	Annually Annually	SC SC
IMRAB 3	Merial, Incorporated License No. 298	Merial, Incorporated	Dogs Cats Sheep Cattle Horses Ferrets	1 ml 1 ml 2 ml 2 ml 2 ml 1 ml	3 months 3 months 3 months 3 months 3 months 3 months	1 year later & triennially 1 year later & triennially 1 year later & triennially Annually Annually Annually	IM or SC IM or SC IM or SC IM or SC IM or SC SC
IMRAB 3 TF	Merial, Incorporated License No. 298	Merial, Incorporated	Dogs Cats Ferrets	1 ml 1 ml 1 ml	3 months 3 months 3 months	1 year later & triennially 1 year later & triennially Annually	IM or SC IM or SC SC
IMRAB Large Animal	Merial, Incorporated License No. 298	Merial, Incorporated	Cattle Horses Sheep	2 ml 2 ml 2 ml	3 months 3 months 3 months	Annually Annually 1 year later & triennially	IM or SC IM or SC IM or SC
B) MONOVALENT (Rabies glycoprotein, live canary pox vector)							
PUREVAX Feline Rabies	Merial, Incorporated License No. 298	Merial, Incorporated	Cats	1ml	3 months	Annually	SC
C) COMBINATION (Inactivated rabies)							
CONTINUUM DAP-R	Intervet, Incorporated License No. 165A	Intervet, Incorporated	Dogs	1 ml	3 months	1 year later & triennially	SC
CONTINUUM Feline HCP-R	Intervet, Incorporated License No. 165A	Intervet, Incorporated	Cats	1 ml	3 months	1 year later & triennially	SC
Equine POTOMAVAC + IMRAB	Merial, Incorporated License No. 298	Merial, Incorporated	Horses	1 ml	3 months	Annually	IM
D) COMBINATION (Rabies glycoprotein, live canary pox vector)							
PUREVAX Feline 3/ Rabies	Merial, Incorporated License No. 298	Merial, Incorporated	Cats	1ml	8 weeks 3 months	Every 3 weeks until 3 months & annually 3 weeks later & annually	SC
PUREVAX Feline 4/ Rabies	Merial, Incorporated License No. 298	Merial, Incorporated	Cats	1ml	8 weeks 3 months	Every 3 weeks until 3 months & annually 3 weeks later & annually	SC
E) ORAL (Rabies glycoprotein, live vaccinia vector) - RESTRICTED TO USE IN STATE AND FEDERAL RABIES CONTROL PROGRAMS							
RABORAL V-RG	Merial, Incorporated License No. 298	Merial, Incorporated	Coyotes Raccoons	N/A	N/A	As determined by local authorities	Oral

a. Minimum age (or older) and revaccinated one year later
b. One month = 28 days
c. Intramuscularly
d. Subcutaneously
e. Fort Dodge Animal Health was recently acquired by Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.

Rabies Vaccine Manufacturer Contact Information

Manufacturer	Phone Number	Internet Address
Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.	800-638-2226	Not available
Intervet, Inc.	800-441-8272	http://www.intervetusa.com
Merial, Inc.	888-637-4251	http://us.merial.com
Pfizer, Inc.	800-366-5288	http://www.pfizerah.com

ADVERSE EVENTS: Adverse events should be reported to the vaccine manufacturer and to USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Center for Veterinary Biologics (Internet: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/vet_biologics/vb_adverse_event.shtml; telephone: 800-752-6255;).

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