

"Those cute baby ferrets!"

Who can resist wandering over to the pet section of a pet store to see the ferrets for sale!

For many, their first ferret will be acquired as a kit (5 to 8 weeks) from a retail pet store.

While it is tempting to make a quick impulse decision, this should never be done when purchasing a pet-- especially a ferret.

Young ferrets may fit in your pocket, but they are no "pocket pet." Ferrets can live an average of 6 to 10 years, with some reports of ferrets living to 13 years of age.

Ferrets require specialized care in providing housing and food. They require preventive health care visits to stay healthy and happy. As your pet and "family friend" they deserve intervention and treatment when they are older or when they become ill.

One must also expect to spend time with your new baby: Ferrets require daily play time out of any cage environment for at least 2 hours, but ideally 4 to 6 hours. Your ferret will enjoy being with you!

Your ferret will also require some training. Cute baby ferrets need to be shown where to do their "business", what not to nip, and what is off-limits in terms of play behavior. They can quickly become very rambunctious. They have teeth -- and like a puppy-- they will tend to chew on everything -- even your fingers!

Proper socialization training is needed, which can be daunting for a first-time ferret owner.

This adds up to a significant time commitment, and may be a larger "expense" than most people bargained for.

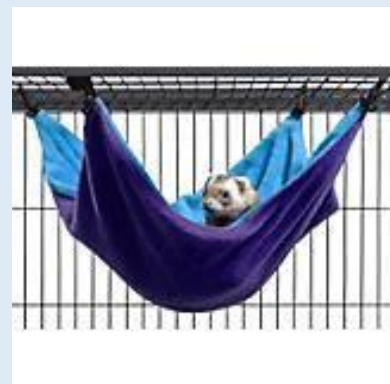
A good place to start is to ask questions of other ferret owners. Do read the articles on the

**Ferret "Equipment":
Don't leave the store without it!**



When you purchase a ferret for the first time, be sure to also get the following:

- Cage
- Food and water containers
- Bedding
- Litter box
- Litter
- Toys
- Toe-nail clipper
- Oil-based tonic



allFerrets™ website, ask questions through forums [**Ferret Talk**]and in social media.

Read: many good books are available for first-time owners. For example, "Ferrets for Dummies" has lots of general ferret information.

Most of all, do your homework. Every year hundreds of ferrets end up in Rescues and Shelters-- mostly because their prior owners did not know what to expect!

Ferrets make wonderful pets. They can give and expect love. They are very interactive and loyal to their owners. Are you ready for such a faithful friend?

So do learn all you can before you make the purchase.

What you need to know BEFORE you leave the store:

- Is my ferret a boy or girl?
- Has my ferret been altered or spayed?
- Has my ferret been immunized against Rabies and Canine Distemper Viruses? If so, how many times? When is the next immunization(s) due to be given?

It is also important to request the names or recommendations of a **ferret-knowledgeable veterinarian**.

You may also ask if there is a **Ferret Club** in your area.