

Showing Your Ferret Checklist and General Information

For first time show goers we recognize that showing your ferret may seem a little intimidating. We have prepared this list to introduce you to the process. Further information can be found on the Greatest Ferret Show on Earth (GFSOE) website at gfsoe.weebly.com/showing-your-ferret.html

Please join our Facebook Group where you can ask questions. Members are happy to help! It's also where you can read the latest news about the show. www.facebook.com/groups/GFSOE

Let's get started!

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1. **Distemper and Rabies Vaccinations.** These are done for your ferret's health and safety while out in public. For valuable information on Distemper and Rabies please visit the Greatest Ferret Show on Earth (GFSOE) website at gfsoe.weebly.com/distemperrabies-info.html
 - a. Complete vaccinations at least 2 weeks, but preferably one month or more, before the show so proper antibodies have the chance to form. More than one vaccination should never be given during the same veterinarian appointment. They should be staggered 2 to 3 weeks apart. While reactions to vaccinations are not always able to be prevented, this can help.
 - b. Distemper Vaccination or titer test: The Greatest Ferret Show On Earth requires that ferrets have sufficient antibodies. This can be accomplished through yearly vaccination. However this puts your ferret at a greater risk of reaction to the vaccine. If your ferret has been vaccinated for Distemper within the past two years there is a good possibility it still has sufficient immunity. Therefore it is suggested that your veterinarian perform a titer test for antibodies rather than vaccinate.
Ferrets brought into the show hall must show proof of distemper vaccine or titer results administered within one year before the show date.
 - c. Rabies vaccine is recommended but not required.

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2. **Register.**
 - a. The information needed to register your ferret(s) along with the show's requirements is in the registration packet. A link to the registration packet is on the Greatest Ferret Show on Earth (GFSOE) website on the Registration page. Be sure to read it thoroughly.
 - b. The hardest part of registration is deciding which classes to enter. If you are unsure which classes your ferret belongs in, please refer to "Ferret Classifications" on the Greatest Ferret Show on Earth (GFSOE) website at gfsoe.weebly.com/ferret-classifications.html. If you are still unsure, please ask in the GFSOE Facebook group.
 - c. Be sure to register your ferret(s) before the deadline. Registration information and entry fees can be found on the GFSOE website at gfsoe.weebly.com/registration.html
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3. Grooming.

- a. Nails should be clipped two to three days before the show. This will allow time for the edges to smooth and will make handling the ferret more comfortable. If the nails are still sharp on the day of the show use a nail file to soften the edges.
 - b. Ears should be free of debris. Do not use an oil based ear cleaner within a week of the show as it will cause dirt to continue to rise out of the ear. On the morning of the show clean your ferret's ears using cotton swabs lightly moistened with water or saline. Bring cotton swabs to the show to wipe away any last minute debris before you enter the ring.
 - c. Teeth should be free of tartar. If needed, and your ferret is in good health, consider scheduling a dental cleaning with your vet. The judges take age into consideration when evaluating teeth, but dirty teeth can be the difference in points between 1st place and 5th place.
 - d. Give your ferret a bath a two or three before the show. When the ferret is dry, brush the coat to remove any remaining loose hair. Have clean bedding in your ferret's cage after bathing.
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4. **Housing during show.** You want your ferret(s) to be comfortable during the long show day. A travel cage should be roomy enough to eat, sleep, stand, and poop. Small playpens are allowed in the ferret owners space (quiet area) or within a vendor's space but not in the common areas. The travel cage or playpen should have bedding, food, water, and a litter box. Ferrets are not allowed on the show floor so travel cages and playpens must have a bottom or mat. Some popular travel cages and playpens are manufactured by Kritter Concepts. kritterkoncepts.net
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5. **Carriers.** Ferrets are not required to be presented to the judge in a carrier, however you may want to have a carrier or travel cage for them to comfortably wait their turn to be judged.
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6. **Show check-in.** The day of the show is finally here! Check-in begins at 7:30am and continues until 9:00am. Ferrets not checked in by 9:00am may be scratched from the competition so please be on time. Bring the required paperwork with you. Without the proper paperwork a ferret cannot enter the show hall.
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7. **Show Packet.** At check-in you will be given a packet that contains information about the show. You will also receive a card with your ferret's assigned show number which will be called when it's your ferret's turn to be judged. The packet will also include a show book if you purchased one when registering. If not, they will be available in limited quantities at registration. The show book has a listing of the show classes and the ferrets entered in each class. Be sure to look for your ferret's name!
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- Judging.** Let the show begin! Names are not used during judging. Ferrets are called by numbers only. Please listen carefully to the announcer throughout the show. Make sure you are ready when your ferret's class is called. At that time bring your ferret to the show ring. When the judge calls your ferret's number or asks for your ferret, hand it to the judge with its back towards the judge and its face towards you. It's not intimidating for the ferret because it is seeing you and not a stranger. When the judge is finished your ferret will be handed to you the same way, with the face towards you. You may then return the ferret to the travel cage. After the ferrets have been judged the judge and steward will calculate the scores and rank the ferrets. The announcer then says what we all wait to hear... "we are now ribboning for the (name of) Class". Return to the show ring with your ferret. Before the ribbons are handed out the judge will explain what they look for in judging that particular class. All ferrets in the class win a ribbon and the judge will hand them out starting with last place through 3rd place. Then the 2nd place and 1st place ferrets are called up in no particular order. The judge explains why they chose the 1st place ferret then hands out the 2nd place ribbon and finally the 1st place ribbon and trophy.
At the end of the day after the judging is completed the Best of Show awards are presented. These are the Best in Championship, Best in Color Specialty, Best in Extraordinary and The Greatest Ferret On Earth!