American Ferret Association sanctioned shows require ADV testing. The saliva test from Avecon is no longer available and so the only other test accepted by the AFA at this time is the Blue Cross Cep Test--a blood test. The test processing fee itself only costs $10 plus postage per ferret. Some who do their own blood glucose testing may feel comfortable performing a short clip, but if this is not the case for you, please do not attempt, and leave it to your veterinarian. Without extensive experience the procedure can be painful and also run the risk of great blood loss and/or serious injury.

Veterinary check-ups and blood work are good yearly habits to get into with your ferrets and early detection is the first defense. Having base-line test results to compare changes over time can be invaluable. Having the samples created during yearly blood work may only cost a few dollars. And so, if you are interested in showing your ferrets this year at the Greatest Ferret Show On Earth, or any other AFA sanctioned show, consider having your veterinarian create the specimens for you during your ferret’s annual exam and blood work. For convenience and ease of testing, the GCFA has contacted several local veterinarians and has negotiated a technician fee of $20 per ferret for the blood draw and samples based on criteria detailed with the veterinarians below. Please read carefully because each veterinarian’s information may vary.

***The ADV test is simple, but again the American Ferret Association only accepts one***. General overview: A very small amount of blood is collected in tiny capillary tubes; the tubes are secured, labeled, wrapped for protection, packaged, and lastly mailed to the lab. Each sample should be wrapped separately and labeled with the ferret’s name for identification, but not directly on the tubes. The AFA has said samples do not need to be refrigerated, or overnighted, but it is best to mail next possible business day Priority. In summary, we would suggest:

1. Have the samples created during yearly blood work. If your ferret has already had its yearly exam, you can call to make your ADV testing appointment with your veterinarian or one listed in this email. You will want to confirm with the receptionist that the appointment is for ADV testing and the negotiated $20 technician fee--***if the ferret qualifies***. If the person on the phone is unaware, just ask to speak with the veterinarian listed or have them call you back to discuss, it could just be a miscommunication.
2. Bring supplies with you to the appointment: small pieces of cardboard, scotch tape, plastic baggies and labels.
3. When the veterinarian gives you the samples, it may be necessary to attach samples, if not already) to a small piece of cardboard (scotch tape should be fine) and put each ferret’s samples in a separate snack size plastic baggie. Attaching the tubes to the small piece of cardboard or other sturdy material will eliminate the tubes rubbing or bumping during transit.
4. Place a label on each baggy with the ferret’s name.
5. Gently bubble wrap or newspaper wrap them together and place them in the smallest USPS flat rate shipping box or a box or your choice. The box will add protection.
6. There is a $10.00 lab fee ***per ferret***. Include payment of check, money order or credit card information for the number of ferrets you are having tested. Example: Blood samples for five ferrets=$50. You will need to call to confirm what credit card information is needed at

208-678-5553.

1. Double check the address and mail that day or the next business day Priority Mail. *Choose a quicker option if you are approaching a show entry deadline.*
2. Results should be received in 2-3 weeks. If you do not receive the results in a timely fashion, call to make sure they were received. Keep the testing results in a safe place as you will need them for proof at check-in for each AFA show.

Here are links to the official Blue Cross Cep Test instructions:

<http://www.ferret-universe.com/health/resources/bluecross_ceptest.pdf>

<http://www.ferret.org/read/CEP_testing.html>

If you are not using one of the below vets, when making your appointment, you may want to speak directly to your veterinarian regarding the sample collections you need. I would suggest emailing or faxing a copy of the official instructions first for their review. However, once the samples are ready you should be able to leave with them from the appointment and mail them yourself. Packaging and mailing the samples yourself can save you money in comparison to having your vet handle the entire process and also make sure they are sent to the correct address. However, having your vet mail them in is up to you. ***Remember--if your vet tells you they do ADV testing, make sure it is this one!*** ***There are other ADV blood tests. This is the only one that is accepted by the AFA for their sanctioned shows*.** The Negative test result is good for one entire year from the date of the testing results. The earlier you test the more AFA shows you will have the opportunity to register for throughout the year: Spring Nationals (PA), The Ferret 500 (IN), Ferret Buckeye Bash (OH), Midwest Ferret Fellowship Faire (MI), Fandango (PA), GFSOE (IL), Dooktoberfest (VA), Winter Nationals (PA). This list is not all-inclusive. By entering a ferret in the same Title or Specialty Class in four American Ferret Association shows, within the same year, the ferret will qualify for prestigious AFA “Ferret of the Year” award for that class. For more information on available AFA shows and dates, visit our website at [www.GreatestFerretShowOnEarth.info](http://www.GreatestFerretShowOnEarth.info). *Note: The website currently has 2013 information listed but should be updated with 2014 information by 5/1/14.*

The following vets have been contacted by the GCFA and are willing to perform the ADV test blood collection and samples with the following fees:

**Dr. Horton, Chicago Exotics Animal Hospital, Skokie**. If your ferret is a current patient and has been seen for a wellness exam within the past year, you will only be charged a technician fee of $20 per ferret. This includes the blood draw and collection samples. CEAH is also offering 10% off other qualifying services for GCFA members who can show proof of membership (your GCFA membership card). You will be given the blood sample tubes to label, wrap and mail.

**Dr. de la Navarre, Animal House of Chicago, Chicago.** If your ferret is a current patient and has been seen for a wellness exam with the past year, you will only be charged a technician fee of $20 per ferret. This includes the blood draw and collection samples. If you are a new patient, or returning patient that that needs a yearly exam, for a flat fee of $50, Dr. de la Navarre will perform an exam, weight, blood draw and provide the collection samples. You will be given the blood sample tubes to label, wrap and mail.

**Dr. Anda, Army Trail Animal Hospital, Bartlett.** For current patients that have been seen for a wellness exam within the past year, you will only be charged a technician fee of $20 per ferret for the blood draw and samples. For first time patients she offers free exams and is also offering 10% off other qualifying services for GCFA members as long as proof of membership is provided (your membership card). You will be given the blood sample tubes to label, wrap and mail.

**Ness Exotic Wellness Center, Lisle.** If your ferret is a current patient and has had an exam there within the past 6 months, you will only be charged a technician fee of $20 per ferret. This includes the blood draw and collection samples. You will be given the blood sample tubes to label, wrap and mail.

**Dr. Ball/Dr. Wajda, Mokena Animal Clinic, Mokena.** For current patients that have been seen for a wellness exam within the past year, you will only be charged a technician fee of $20 per ferret for the blood draw and samples. This includes the blood draw and collection samples. You will be given the blood sample tubes to label, wrap and mail.

Again, make sure you save the original results you receive by mail from the lab; you will need these for proof to enter each show. Your ferrets also need to be up-to-date on distemper and rabies vaccinations or proof of acceptable distemper titer results. ***This is for your ferret’s protection while being out in public***. If your ferrets need vaccinating, never schedule both distemper and rabies vaccinations at the same time, but consider scheduling one of the vaccinations in conjunction with the ADV testing appointment. Costs will vary, please check with your veterinarian. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at Valerie.Michalski@gcfa.com and I will answer to the best of my ability or refer you to an appropriate person. Another option is contacting the American Ferret Association directly regarding the ADV testing required: [www.ferret.org/](http://www.ferret.org/)