**Showing Your Ferret Checklist and General Information**

**Mentor program:**

We recognize showing might be a little intimidating the first time through and so we have three individuals who are willing to assist you through this process. Familiarize yourself with the checklist below. If you feel unsure or have questions, don’t hesitate to contact:

Faith Pommier FaithP.[GFSOE@gmail.com](mailto:GFSOE@gmail.com)

Robin Pikscher [RobinP.GFSOE@gmail.com](mailto:RobinP.GFSOE@gmail.com)

Emmy Flinn [EmmyFlinn@gmail.com](mailto:EmmyFlinn@gmail.com)

* **Checkmark when completed**

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1. **Hotel.** If you are traveling from out of town and will need to book an hotel, do it 60-90 days before the show. There may be other events going on in the area that you are unaware of and you will get the best deal booking sooner.

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1. **Vaccinations**. This is for your ferrets’ safety and health while out in public. Complete your vaccinations or titer testing at least 2 weeks before, preferably 1 month or more before the show so proper antibodies have the chance to form.
   1. Both Rabies and Distemper Vaccinations needs to have been administered within the past year, of the show date. More than one vaccination should never be given at the same veterinarian appointment and should be staggered 2-3 weeks apart. Vaccination reactions are not always preventable, but this can help.
   2. Distemper Vaccination or titer test:
      1. American Ferret Association requires that ferrets have sufficient antibodies. This can be accomplished through yearly vaccinating, however, yearly vaccination puts your ferret at greater risk of vaccination reaction. If your ferret has had a Distemper vaccination within the past two years there is a good possibility your ferret has sufficient immunity, and as such, it is suggested you should have your veterinarian titer test for antibodies rather than vaccinate.
   3. Fill out the CDV Waiver and bring to the show as part of the required paperwork. The CDV Waiver is available on the GFSOE website under Registration Forms

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1. **Negative ADV Test.** Although seemingly rare, Aleutians Disease is a highly contagious disease that needs to be taken seriously.
   1. All ferrets entering the show hall must have and show proof of a negative test result on original tester’s results. If any ferret within the same household tests positive, unfortunately no ferrets from that household can be shown or allowed in the show hall.
   2. Again, have the test done at least 1 month or more prior to the show, in case of a lost specimen during shipping or other fluke, so you can have the test re-done. Call the lab to let them know the specimen(s) have been mailed. If you do not receive results within two weeks, follow up with a call to the lab.
   3. There is ADV testing information and instruction on the GFSOE website under Showing Your Ferret
   4. Fill out the ADV Waiver and bring to the show as part of the required paperwork. This waiver is available on the GFSOE website under Registration Forms

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1. **Register** 
   1. Read the registration packet. Yes, it’s long but it will help you to understand many of the rules, regulations and nuances of showing. If you have questions about what classes to show your ferrets in, check out the AFA’s Exhibitor’s Guidebook link below; appendices A, B, C & D of the table of contents.

<http://www.ferret.org/pdfs/ExhibitorGuidebook.pdf>

* 1. Register your ferret(s) by 9/1/15 using the online registration Excel form to receive early sign-up discount. GCFA members receive an additional entry discount—see registration packet for actual fees. If you sign up for membership during the registration process, you will qualify for the additional discount. Download the form, fill out, save and then email to [Registrar.GFSOE@gmail.com](mailto:Registrar.GFSOE@gmail.com). You should receive a confirmation within 48 hours from the registrar.
  2. Final registration deadline is 9/19/15. All registrations must be received by email or by mail by Saturday--9/19/15. If you choose to use print and fill out the registration forms from the registration packet and scan/email or mail the forms, each entry will be assessed an extra $1. The Excel form saves the registrar a huge amount of time and effort and so the online Excel form is the preferred method of registration.
  3. You can register without actually having your vaccinations or ADV testing completed, but your check-in day of the show may take longer due to verifying the results.

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1. **View Carrier options**. If you enter your ferret in a Title Class, the ferret will need to be presented for judging in a “proper carrier”. Please check page 4 of the registration packet on the website registration tab for full details. Failure to present your ferret in a carrier for a Title Class will disqualify it. Not using the proper type or not following the rules for acceptable items in the carrier could result in points deducted from your ferrets overall score. Specialty Classes do not require the ferret to be presented to the judge in a carrier, however you should always have a carrier or travel cage for them to comfortably wait their turn.

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1. **Grooming.** Nails should be clipped two to three days before the show. This will allow time for the jagged edges to smooth and will make handling the ferret more comfortable. Ears should be free of all 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. Clean ears periodically before the show with lightly moistened Q-tips. Water or Saline should suffice. Bring Q-tips to the show so you can wipe away any last minute debris. Teeth should be free of tartar. Brush your ferret’s teeth weekly. If needed, and your ferret is in good health, consider scheduling a dental cleaning with your vet. The judges will take age into consideration when evaluating teeth, but dirty teeth can be the difference in points between 1st place and 5th place in closely contested class.

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1. **Housing during show.** You want your ferret/ferrets to be comfortable during a long show day. A travel cage should be roomy enough for them to eat, sleep, scratch, stand and poop. Small playpens are also allowed in the sleeping area or in a vendor booth, but must fit in these areas as they are not allowed in the main show areas or isles. Your travel cages and carriers should have bedding, food, water and litter boxes. Ferrets are not allowed on the show floor so cages and carriers must have a bottom or mat. Here is a link for an assortment of travel cages: http://www.martinscages.com/
2. **Check-in the day of the show will start at 7:30am.** Unless your ferrets are checked in by 9am, your ferret(s) could be scratched from the competition, so please be on time. Bring all of your required paperwork, signed waivers, vaccination and ADV test results with you secured. Don’t let the wind steal your papers! Without proper paperwork, a ferret cannot enter the show hall.
3. **Show Packet.** As an Exhibitor at check-in you will receive a show packet. This will have your show book if you purchased one, your ferret number cards with hooks, a name badge and GFSOE Bucks if your entries qualified. Show Books are $3 if you purchase while registering, or $5 at the door. The show book has a listing of all the show classes and all the ferrets entered in each class. Each of your ferrets will be designated a number by the registrar and you will need to let the Specialty judge know the number of the ferret they are judging each time. Names are not used during the judging process, only numbers. For the Title Class, the carrier will need to have the ferret number card with hook, corresponding to the ferret being judged, attached to it. At the end of each Specialty class judged, there will be a ribbon presented in order of placement and a plaque given to the ferret who finishes 1st. At the end of each Title Class judged, three judges will present their top 10 ferrets with ribbon placements and each judge will also award the top ferret in their ring (3 rings total) a plaque.