



# Ferret Health Advisory

## Veterinary Care and Vaccinations

Ferrets should receive routine health examinations from a veterinarian. Your veterinarian can provide you with information on preventative health care, including appropriate vaccinations. If you think your ferret is ill, contact your veterinarian immediately.

## Local Licensing of Ferrets

County, city, village or township governments may require licensing of ferrets, similar to the licensing that has been established for dogs. Check with your local government to see if this applies to you.



## Rabies Vaccination

In Michigan, ferrets over 12 weeks of age are required by law to have a current rabies vaccination given by a veterinarian.

*If a human is bitten by your ferret, you are required to report the bite to the local health department within 24 hours.*

The health department will guide you to any additional actions that may need to occur.

## Bringing Ferrets into Michigan

If you bring a ferret into Michigan from another state, that movement is considered importation, which has specific requirements. These requirements help us protect public health and prevent sick animals from coming into Michigan. Here is what you will need before importing your ferret:

- Official interstate health certificate, signed by an accredited veterinarian, which includes a record of vaccinations.
- Ferrets over six weeks of age are required to have a current distemper vaccination.
- Ferrets over 12 weeks of age also need a current rabies vaccination.

**A ferret less than six weeks of age cannot be imported into Michigan unless accompanied by its natural mother.**

## Buying a Ferret

Unless you are purchasing directly from a ferret breeder, you must receive a pet health certificate from the seller that states the ferret has been examined by a veterinarian within the last 30 days.

If you have any questions, contact the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at 800-292-3939.