

The Fuzzy Papers

NEWSLETTER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS FERRET FRIENDS
SPRING 2001



The Lynn Legalization Effort

by Jan Fleury

MaFF has been working with the City of Lynn Ordinance Committee to amend an ordinance dating back to May 25, 1976 which in effect makes ownership of ferrets illegal there. Interestingly, the actual ordinance does not mention ferrets by name, but seems to include them because the city has deemed them "exotic." The word "exotic" is not an official term or designation. In reality, "exotic" is a term of convenience which has been used by veterinarians for billing or descriptive purposes, but meaning only that they are neither dogs nor cats, and nothing more. It is a term that has been erroneously equated with or considered synonymous with "wild." Unfortunately, the word appears in the ordinance. Section 1, B. of *An Ordinance Establishing an Ordinance Relative to Licensing of Animals within the City of Lynn* reads as follows: "Roosters, goats, sheep and all wild or so-called exotic animals and reptiles are expressly forbidden within the City of Lynn limits."

In essence, MaFF is hoping that the City of Lynn will amend the ordinance so that ferrets are no longer considered "exotic," and remove the ban on keeping them as house pets, and then adopt the Massachusetts state guidelines for ferret ownership as set forth in Massachusetts General Law Section 77.

Thanks to the efforts of our Special Investigations Chairperson, Sharon Burbine, a number of MaFF members and interested citizens of

Lynn were granted an appearance before the Ordinance Committee on February 27th to bring our case that ferrets are not wild animals and so should not be banned in the city of Lynn. Sharon put together extensive informational packets including documentation from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, humane (including HSUS and ASPCA) and zoological societies (New York Zoological Society; The Zoological Society of San Diego), US Governmental agencies (National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians; United States Department of Agriculture; United States Department of the Interior – Fish & Wildlife Services), other nations (United Kingdom, Canada), major reference publications (*Colliers* and *World Book Encyclopedias*, *Encyclopedia Britannica*), and more than half a dozen letters from individual veterinarians (including Dr. Wendy Emerson, DVM, President of the Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association), all attesting to the ferret's status as a domestic pet, their general docility, and the fact that they are not considered a public health risk. In addition, there was a letter in support of our cause directly from Dr. Thomas French of the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, who has been a friend to ferrets and was of tremendous help to us in our effort to legalize ferrets statewide back in 1996. Given the impressive array of testimonials and documentation Sharon presented, the Committee was quite favorable to our

cause, and immediately granted us a public hearing, which was subsequently set for April 10th.

On March 1st, the legalization issue hit the front page (above the fold, no less, and with an adorable color photo), of the *Lynn Item* newspaper. The article written by journalist Thor Jourgensen was entirely positive, and carried our message about the joy of ferrets as delightful companion animals.

In preparation for the April 10th hearing, Sharon developed and distributed petitions which were hosted by various Lynn businesses including The Walnut Street Café (Walnut Street), Linda's Critter Coral (on Bessom Street), and Duffy Electric (Walnut Street). In addition, Robert Mellace, the manager of Pet Express on the Lynnway has been supportive of our efforts, and appeared at both hearings. MaFF member Jill Northrup had also done some solid public health research for us, in support of our stand that they are not a public health risk.

At the public hearing on April 10th, we had in attendance a number of MaFF members as well as Dick and Joan Bossart of 4 Li'l Paws Ferret Shelter of Merrimack, NH. Dick has been a great help to MaFF over the years, and our members may or may not know that the full name of our Ferret Friend Award is *The Richard K. Bossart Ferret Friend Award*. Also appearing at the public hearing and among those who stepped forward to be heard were Ed and Jo Fowler of Luv of Ferrets Shelter and rescue, as well as Dr. Dunn, from the North Shore Animal Hospital, who

(Continued on Next Page)

(Lynn Legalization, Continued)

spoke in favor of amending the ordinance.

The amended text of the ordinance, however, did give us pause. The new text reads in part: "...said ordinance shall provide as follows: C. Acting under the authority of Chapter 111, Section 312 of the General Laws of Massachusetts, no person, firm or corporation shall keep or cause to be kept within the City of Lynn limits, any ferrets without first obtaining a permit from the Health Department for the City of Lynn. Such permit shall expire on the thirtieth day of April and the fee

therefor shall be Two (\$2.00) Dollars payable annually. D. All state and municipal rules, regulations, ordinances and orders relative to household pets regarding vaccinations, rabies and proper restraints shall apply equally to ferrets."

Unfortunately, after some consideration and consultation with Attorney Dale Merrill, MaFF was forced to step forward to speak in opposition to the amended ordinance as written. Our opposition centers around the requirement of obtaining a permit for having a ferret. Granted, the fee is small, but the requirement has us very concerned for a number of reasons, which Sharon outlined to the Committee at the public hearing:

Our first concern was to determine exactly who was going to enforce the permit requirement. By comparison, dog licenses are typically obtained through Town Clerk's offices, but this permit would seem to have to be issued by the Health Department of the City of Lynn, and we were not sure why this would have to be the case.

Second, because the criteria for issuing the permit were not spelled out, those seeking a permit could theoretically be denied one, but on what basis? And if one were denied a permit, to whom would they appeal the decision?

Third, if a person was found to have a ferret without a permit, it was not clear what the penalty could be.

Fourth, we felt that requiring a permit would be unduly onerous for ferret owners, and it was not clear whether the permit was to be per animal or per household, or if there might then be imposed a limit on the number of ferrets per household.

Additionally, what would be the rule if someone was visiting Lynn, and had a ferret with them, or what if AFA or another ferret organization wanted to set a ferret show or a frolic in the City of Lynn: would this mean that everyone attending the show with their ferret(s) would have to get a permit?

Also, would the permit requirement mean that if a pet store wanted to sell a ferret to someone who happens to live in Lynn, would the pet store have to first require that the person purchasing the ferret give proof of having this permit?

And finally, Massachusetts State Law does not seem to explicitly give cities and towns the authority to require a permit for ferret ownership, so there may be no basis for the amended ordinance as written, but if it was adopted, would other cities and towns throughout the state then also "follow suit" and begin to require permits based on the Lynn precedent?

As we go to press, the next hearing date has not yet been set. The day after the April 10th hearing, another article appeared in the *Lynn Item* newspaper. It was again favorable to our cause, noted that we had been forced to appear in opposition because of the permit question, but that we still want the ban on ferrets lifted. The article also mentioned Dr. Dunn's testimony, which was very important to our cause, since Dr. Dunn is not only a veterinarian practicing in Lynn, but also the City Veterinarian and Lynn's Inspector of Animals.

This is a good test case for us and for any other cities or towns which may have ordinances which are an impediment to ferret ownership.

The status of the Lynn legalization effort is being updated almost daily with information available by visiting a link directly from the home page of the MaFF website at www.maferrets.org. □

The Fuzzy Papers

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Has YOUR E-mail Address Changed??

If so, please take a moment to notify us at membership@maferrets.org, so we may update your e-mail address in our membership database. If you'd like to receive e-mail from us, we would appreciate your notification of e-mail address changes, so you won't miss any of MaFF's e-mail bulletins.

Silver Belle

*by Jo Fowler
Luv of Ferrets Shelter & Rescue*

I was just days before Christmas that I received an e-mail from Jill Northrup who was seeking a spot in a MaFF shelter for some ferrets that were in the Boston MSPCA. One of these ferrets, a female, had a very ugly large tumor over her right eye and Jill was fearful what might happen to her. I looked at my full cages and thought, this is the Christmas season and I am sure we can squeeze one more fur child in, especially one that needs medical attention. So I responded to Jill, and told her that I would take the little one with the tumor in the hope that the other shelters would accept the other remaining ferrets.

Jill saw this little girl on one of her many visits to the Boston MSPCA, she was being kept in the back room because of the tumor over her eye. It was a very grotesque, ugly thing on an otherwise beautiful ferret. Jill felt that her chances for survival — because of the tumor — were very slim if she did not get her out of there in a hurry, and since the doctor was out on vacation, it was the perfect time to have her released to a MaFF shelter.

On December 21st Jill brought an extremely fat, bouncy, friendly silver girl to me. As soon as she was let out of the carrier, she just jumped



Belle, before her surgery.

and danced with glee, and because it was Christmas time Jill had named this little silver girl "Silver Belle."

Just prior to Belle coming into the shelter I had received an inquiry as to availability of a single ferret that might fit the needs of a ferret that had recently lost his cagemate. At that time, I did not think that any of the ferrets I had in the shelter would meet the request. Then came Silver Belle. I was in touch with Deanna and told her of Belle and Belle's circumstances, and asked if she might want to visit with Pepper the lonely guy looking for a friend. "Yes" was the immediate reply.

So Deanna, her two children, and Pepper came to visit. If you looked at Belle from one side, she was beautiful, but if you looked at her from the other, she did not look very pretty. Deanna and all of her family looked beyond the ugly tumor and decided that when Belle was completely ready, she would be a member of their family.

On January 3rd Belle went to the vet to start her shot series and, when the veterinarian saw the tumor over her eye, decided to do the surgery that very day. We were even able to bring her home later that day! What a difference the removal of that tumor made in the appearance of this little happy bouncy girl — she was now gorgeous from both sides.

While waiting for Belle to complete her shot series, we were hard at work to make the transition into her new family a bit easier for both ferrets — we had given Deanna Belle's sleep sack for Pepper, and Deanna had left Pepper's sleep sack for Belle so they would become used to each other's scent in their cages. Then came the day this now gorgeous sil-



Belle, now named Suzie, safe and comfy with her new Mommy.

ver girl went to her new family and home: January 12th.

Silver Belle has had another name change since leaving the shelter. She is now called Suzie. I call her Suzie Belle. Her new family who are giving her the love and affection she deserves treasure her. She in turn makes them smile with enjoyment and pleasure because of her loving, friendly ways, and with her antics. This little life that is bringing happiness to an entire family might possibly have been snuffed out — save for the visit of Jill Northrup to the back room of the Boston MSPCA.

[A closing note for those who might be concerned: we received word that little Belle's tumor was benign, so she can look forward to a long, fuzzy life. — Ed.] □



The Fuzzy Papers

Deadlines for Submissions to
Upcoming Issues of
The Fuzzy Papers

For the Summer 2001 Issue
Wednesday, May 16, 2001

For the Fall 2001 Issue
Thursday, August 16, 2001

For the Winter 2001 Issue
Friday, November 16, 2001

Snailmail your submissions to:
MaFF / *The Fuzzy Papers*
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Wakefield, MA 01880
Or email to:
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the form of articles, letters, or
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handwritten, or typed, or submitted
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Photos can be prints or
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permission of those depicted,
and can be in either color
or black & white.

Shelter's Plea

by Janice DeJesus of Gimmee Shelter Ferret Rescue

I searched and searched for the words to say,
to help you all look our way.
So I'll tell the story of the last five,
they came to the shelter, yes, all still alive.

The call came on a snowy night,
"Five ferrets in my cellar, I cannot care for them right."
"It is dark and quite cold down there,
two of them are losing their hair."
Frannie, Critter, Devil, and Ming,
and Little Frankie, who can't eat a thing.

I don't discover this until they arrive,
we will have to hustle to help him survive.

I want to tell the emotions we feel,
pain and fear and heartache most real.

I watch as they discover freedom once more,
dooking and jumping, four feet leave the floor.
The cage was so dirty mere words cannot tell,
these five little ferrets lived nine months in pure Hell.
Their spirits intact, the will to live still there,
look now to find it, beyond the lost hair.

Frannie is active although she looks so bad,
her love of life is bursting, never showing the life she's had.
Critter is a biter, he is old and thin.
Will he stay forever? What will I do with him?
Ming is seven, she is gentle and sweet.
Her tail is bald, but is it because she had only cat food to eat?
She may die in a shelter, but she's still better off
than little Frankie, only two years old, who ate a big piece of cloth.
He spent half his life in darkness; no one to kiss and hug him.
Who knew when as a kit he was bought, his future would be so dim?

They are all great kids, they needed a chance, a chance to live once more...
But still I cried when the call came in: Five ferrets more at my door.
How can I turn my back on them, just how do I say "no"?

Why do I feel such pain inside — do others feel such woe?
So next time you decide, a ferret to add, won't you please consider us?
Our babies all need Moms and Dads to kiss, so they can feel love and trust.

Tequila

by Amy Robbin

DO you believe some things were just *meant* to be? A little over a year ago I was at Luv of Ferrets Shelter in Tewksbury, MA. While I was there, the most beautiful little girl I had ever seen was dropped off. She was a petite, charcoal gray panda/blaze/mitt with a white tip to her tail. She was six months old and just adorable. I fell head over heels in love with this little girl.

I must have stood there arguing with myself for about 20 minutes, saying I have to bring this little girl home with me. The other side of my brain was saying "Your husband will have a fit, you already have three of your own and two fosters." Well I just didn't move quickly enough. Within minutes a little girl cam in with her mother. She was looking for an albino. Jo (Shelter Mom) said she didn't have one at that time and showed her Tequila (the little girl ferret). The little girl fell in love with Tequila also, so her mother put a deposit on Tequila and made arrangements to adopt her. I was a little bummed, but relieved that Tequila found a home so quickly: she and the little girl would have a lot of fun together. And besides, I already have five!

From that day on, I wanted a ferret with those markings (actually, I wanted that ferret). I didn't forget this little girl who stole my heart in one brief meeting. Whenever Jo had her photo album out, I would find the picture of Tequila and admire it, and in my heart wished her well. When I set about looking for a panda of my own, what I would describe was Tequila.

Well, one morning in early December, on a whim I went into Jo's web site (www.luvferrets.com) to see pictures of her little beauties. Lo and behold: I saw a familiar face... could it be? The name said "Tequila." Could it be? With my heart in my throat, I

sent Jo a quick e-mail, waited a whole five minutes and couldn't wait any longer. I picked up the phone and called. I just had to know. As it turns out, it was her. The little girl had ost interest in Tequila and her father basically called Jo and said "I want this thing out of

my house." People amaze me

sometimes ... and on a side note: this parent is buying the girl a dog. As Jo asked him: "What are you going to do with the dog when she gets sick of that?"

Well, on with the story... Jo told me that someone was coming to meet Tequila the next day. I was again hopeful that she would end up in a good home (and I wouldn't have to explain to my husband how I ended up with #7 after all). Jo knew this woman and was sure she would give Tequila a terrific home, should she get along with her other ferrets. I asked Jo to let me know how it went.

The following morning I got an e-mail from Jo that Tequila was still in the shelter, that another luvbug had been a better fit. I just couldn't wait: my little Teeker Squeeker came home with me the very next day. She's now in a home where she will spend the rest of her days as part of my family. It breaks my heart to



Too-cute Tequi takes a little nap as she demonstrates proper use of the cozy quilts and coverlets provided by her human family.

see an animal so young in her third home. People just don't know what they are missing.

Well anyway — that's why I believe in fate. ☐

*Make a contribution to
MaFF's Shelter Fund.
Please do it today.*



*Tequi, caught "Doing the Right Thing" — "Aww, Ma... So I use my litterbox — but do ya hafta tell *everybody*??"*

The Story of Fiscus Ferret

by Janice DeJesus of Gimmee Shelter Ferret Rescue

This is a story of how I feel little Fiscus must have felt all his days and nights in the cellar where he was kept until he was brought into the MSPCA. Except for one young ferret lover there who placed a very worried phone call to me, Fiscus would have died.

He still might — although we are trying so very hard to not let that happen. He was severely dehydrated and malnourished. He was vomiting. His major organs were so dehydrated that they could not be palpated by my vet. I cannot tell you how loving and sweet this little guy is. I am sure that there are many just like him who never receive our help.

We are so full now that the next Fiscus will surely die. His life will end as in the story. He will not be brought to a shelter to be given every chance on earth to find happiness and love, as there are not enough shelters to go around.

What can YOU do? We need more shelters, education, homes, and support to keep on going and to help to end this senseless suffering. Please pitch in a few dollars to the shelter funds; join the fight. Adopt an oldie or a special needs ferret (they don't ask for much!) Dedicate a week-end or two to educate the next spontaneous ferret buyer. Because if you don't, who will? [A word of warning. You will not be able to read the following without it bringing tears to your eyes. — Ed.]

If I hide in a corner, if I close my eyes real tight,
Maybe this nightmare will be over,
Maybe my pain will end.

What did I do that was so very bad?
Why did my owners put me down here all alone?
It is cold and dark and I am lonely and sad.

Wait! A light! My eyes hurt! I blink!
But she walks right by me with a box full of stuff in her arms.
Look at me! You used to love me and think I was cute!

I hurt so bad... I need food, water, soft beds, my cage cleaned,
but most of all, I need to play and get some hugs from my humans.
She leaves. The lights go out. I crawl back in my corner and close my eyes.
God please let this pain end soon.
I am growing so weak.

Is it the same day or the next? I cannot tell. The lights go on.
She is coming to me! She is picking me up and I am in a carrier now!
Oh my! FOOD! I eat very fast! I am so hungry!
We arrive at a place. It is loud with barking dogs and people
and bright with lights.
I am scared. I feel sick. I ate too fast.

I am back in a cage. Wait: Mom! Don't leave without me!
I am sorry I was bad. I won't do it again!
Just let me dance for you one last time.

A person is coming towards me now with something in his hands.
Food? No, a needle.

They say I am too old, I am too thin, the shelters are full, they cannot take me in.
The needle hurts, but not so very much. I am leaving now, but I pray as I die that
the next time around I will belong to someone with as much love in their hearts
as I have in mine.
Good-bye.
— Fiscus Ferret.

Ferrets Across the Sea

A Letter from Jonathan Platt,
Lowton St. Marys, England

MaFF recently received a most interesting message from "across the water" about ferrets in the United Kingdom. With the author's permission, we are passing this along to provide a perspective from an English ferret owner. Many of us who have had ferrets here in the US since the mid 80's will remember that some of the first available books on ferret care were by British authors because of the long-standing history of ferrets there as working animals. So here's a story straight from an Englishman. —Ed.

YOU'VE chosen an unfortunate name! Here in England, "MAFF" stands for Ministry of Agriculture, Foods and Fisheries. I was actually looking for information on the foot and mouth outbreak when I came across your web site! Here MAFF are a hopeless group of penpushers who have never stepped outside London and are telling country people how to run their lives. I'm sure it bears no resemblance to your organisation!

I've kept ferrets on and off since I was ten years old. You seem to keep ferrets as pets whereas in the UK they're mostly used as working animals. Don't get me wrong, that doesn't mean they're not looked after, just that we see them in a different way. I had one old hob (do you call male ferrets 'hobs'?) for six years — he was more like a dog than a ferret. He worked excellently with my lurchers (a cross between a greyhound and a sheepdog), never showing any real aggression towards them (which most ferrets in my experience do — totally understandably). We used him to bolt rabbits from warrens, but usually we'd use the more agile jills (females — forgive me if I'm telling you the obvious, but I don't know your terminology). He came into his own when we came across a large patch of cover (usually bramble — blackberry bushes). We'd slip him in and he'd work the cover rather like a terrier, bolting the rabbits

for the lurchers to catch. We called him Hob Nob after a brand of biscuits we have over here. He lived a grand life with a harem of all-adoring jills. One day I fed him and one of his jills a magpie I'd shot, the next morning the jill was dead and he was in a comatose state. I took him to the vet's but unfortunately he died before we got him there. Someone had poisoned the magpie (something I've never come across around here, but I know happens in other parts of the country) and I'd unwittingly killed him and his mate by feeding him the bird.

Another of my ferrets (a daughter of Hob Nob) was almost killed by one of your raptors, a red tailed hawk. I lived in Scotland at the time and met a group of falconers who had come to stay for a week. They were extremely pissed off as the land they had been given to fly their hawks over had no game whatsoever. I offered to take them onto some hills I had permission on and to bolt rabbits for their hawks to fly at — an offer they gladly took up. They had goshawks, Harris hawks and one red tail. The red tail was, to be honest, useless — but he, like everyone else, had to have his chance to fly. He'd missed a couple of rabbits when it was his turn again.

I had two jills with me: an experienced albino ferret, and a young polecat jill. I decided to use the albino ferret. She went down into the warren and almost immediately we began to hear the tell-tale thumping of rabbits rattling around the tunnels. Then silence. We sat there for twenty minutes, some of the falconers losing interest and wandering off. Then suddenly a rabbit appeared, dashed five feet and disappeared into another hole. The falconer had released his hawk, and at that moment up came my little jill. The red tail grabbed her and she grabbed the red tail's leg! There was a bit of a tussle before we managed to get to the them. I snatched a spare glove off a falconer and grabbed the jill whilst the falconer grabbed his red tail. Fortunately, none

of the red tails talons had entered the little jill - it had just grabbed it around the body. I quickly checked her over (she was absolutely screaming for a fight!) and, being sure she was okay, put her back in her box.

The falconer was mortified, being sure his hawk had, at best, injured my jill. He kept asking if she was okay and saying "didn't I think I should check her again." Eventually I got fed up with his requests (I knew she was okay) and opened her box. There she was, coiled like a cobra, a spitting ball of resentment and spite. "If you want to check her over then go ahead" I said. For some reason he declined!

I kept that jill for another year until I lost her on the Isle of Coll. We'd been asked to go over to ferret some rabbits around an ancient burial ground. The rabbits' tunneling was bringing bones up that looked suspiciously human! (they weren't actually - they were sheep!). Anyway, it was an all expenses paid trip courtesy of the Argyll and District Council — so off we went. The very first warren I entered her into seemed like a simple three hole affair on the side of a sandhill. She disappeared — and that was the last I ever saw of her. Half an hour later I walked over to the other side of the sandhill (which I should have done ini-

tially) and found another hundred or so holes. I stayed there all day and left her box beside the hole I'd originally put her down, but she didn't come back. Who knows, she may still be alive yet amongst the sandhills on Coll.

I really have no idea on your reaction to what I've written. You may think I'm barbaric, which is your prerogative, but this is part of what makes ferrets what they are. I do what comes naturally to me, I was brought up in a family of hunters. I hunt for sport and for food, the actual act of killing something brings me no pleasure at all.

My present lurcher used to catch rabbits and bring them back alive. If I wanted them for food then I would kill them, if I didn't, I would let them go. Surely someone who enjoyed killing would have slaughtered everything.

As I said originally, I only found your site whilst looking for Foot and Mouth stuff! It's a Sunday morning and it's raining (I live about 30 miles from Manchester — it always rains in Manchester!) If I've bored you then I'm sorry!

[Far from it, Jonathan! We find your story most interesting, and we look forward to more! — Ed.] □

Love Thy Ferret

by Darlene Cayo

They're furry, they're funny, they're everything good
But most of the time, they are misunderstood.
They ask but for love, for that's what they most need;
They know not of evil, of hate, or of greed.

They respond well to kindness, a stroke or a kiss,
Yet sadly this is what so many must miss.
They're gentle in nature, and so very smart
They'll steal your possessions, but mostly your heart.

So when they are bad, or they're mean, or they bite,
It's all our own doing; the word is called "fright."
So please love your ferrets, make their life a thrill
Or they'll end up in shelters, and someone else will.

Massachusetts Ferret Friends — Spring 2001



Rhode Island Pet Expo 2001

MaFF had a great group of volunteers to “person” our table at the Rhode Island Pet Expo once again this year, March 10-11. The Expo was well-attended, as always, with quite a crowd on both days. A lot of educational literature was given out as MaFF volunteers (humans and ferrets!) spent long days at the Expo, talking to many current and potential ferret owners about ferret care and behavior, swapping stories, and generally helping people to better understand these little furrcrippers. We thank the following volunteers for making RI Pet Expo 2001 another success: Tracey Goodwin; Janice and Mark DeJesus; Phyllis Spy; Lisa Andrews; Jeanne, Kelsey, and Holly Peterson; Cheryl Thompson; Harry and Barbara Weissman (and their two sons!), and Jan Fleury. □



Don't forget to keep your ferrets cool and give them lots of extra fresh, clean water when the weather is hot!



Ferret Freedom Day: A Celebration

ON Saturday, March 24th, MaFF held a double-event! It was both our celebration of the 5th anniversary of Ferret Freedom Day, and our annual election of the new Board of Directors!

The celebration was held in the elegant venue of Framingham's Plymouth Church on Edgell Road near the historical town common of Framingham. A potluck supper brought many ferret friends out that evening, including some long-standing founding members as well as new folks.

The evening included the presentation of the 2001 Richard K. Bossart Ferret Friend Award. This time in honor of the fifth year of Ferret Freedom, the Award was given to five exceptional individuals who had long deserved such recognition. They were: Sharon Burbine, founding member and first president of MaFF, and now our Special Investigations Chairperson; Shelter Moms Janice DeJesus, Donna Spirito, and Jo Fowler; and last (but not least!) founding member and long-serving Board member Bill Williamson, who had just stepped down that evening after having served a second (not contiguous) term as our Treasurer.

Each of our recipients of the Ferret Friend Award this year deserve this special recognition many times over as the award itself says —

IN RECOGNITION OF
AND DEEP APPRECIATION FOR
YEARS OF LOVING, SELFLESS, AND
DEVOTED SERVICE
ON BEHALF OF
FERRETS
AND THEIR HUMAN COMPANIONS

As MaFF begins its next year, we need you, our members, more than ever. All the ferret shelters are still full and in dire need of foster and adoptive parents. Many worthy MaFF programs such as educational and outreach appearances at pet stores and pet events are in need of people willing to volunteer for this work. If you think you might be willing to devote some time (even a couple hours just one day) to a MaFF project or event, please send email to us at info@maferrets.org, or call Jan Fleury at 508 478 2750. □



MaFF Is on eBay and iGive

Have you visited eBay, the famous Internet auction web site (www.ebay.com)? If not, have a look, because MaFF is posting items for auction on eBay on a regular basis, with proceeds from all sales going towards MaFF's funds. To find out if MaFF has any items posted for sale, simply do a keyword search of titles using the word "MaFF."

Our presence on eBay is thanks to the ongoing efforts of MaFF's Merchandise Chairperson, Amy Robbin.

While you're shopping online, don't forget to visit iGive (www.igive.com). When you sign up, you can select Massachusetts Ferret Friends as your favorite cause, AND you can send e-mail to all your friends right from iGive, and invite them to shop there, too! Thanks to Tracey Goodwin for getting MaFF listed there.

We Call Upon YOU!

MaFF NEEDS Foster Parents for our shelters.

Contact a MaFF shelter today. MaFF NEEDS volunteers to take turns monitoring our Hotline.

MaFF Committee Chairpersons

S T I L L N E E D E D ! !

We are in dire need of volunteers to step forward and become MaFF Chairpersons for the following Committees:

FUNDRAISING

This position needs a dynamic and energetic (ideally a duo!!) person or persons to take on this VERY IMPORTANT heart-of-the-operation committee. Could it be YOU, or you and a good pal you enjoy working with?

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Here is another key spot we need filled right away. Are you good at Press Releases, and do you have excellent people-diplomatic skills and great corporate connections??!! We're YOUR CAUSE!!!

SHELTER

This position is one of the most important in our entire organization. Work and meet with our shelter operators to coordinate, make decisions on disbursements of funds; set policy.

Interested? Contact Jan Fleury at 508 478 2750 or send e-mail to info@maferrets.org.



Yogi THEN (Day One at Gimmee Shelter).



Yogi NOW!

Yogi and the Use of Lupron

by Janice DeJesus of Gimmee Shelter Ferret Rescue

YOGI came to Gimmee Shelter last summer. His circumstances of arrival were not pleasant and he was in very bad shape. Yogi is 8 and a half years old and has bilateral adrenal tumors. Upon his arrival, he had no fur from his neck to his tail. Yogi was very thin and weak. He was dehydrated and very malnourished, and he had a green discharge from his penis. I actually brought him in to my vet that day fearing that the only humane thing to do was to put him to "sleep." My vet told me after the initial exam that Yogi had a good heart and lungs, so he suggested that we see what we could do with fluids and Duck Soup.

After many weeks of antibiotics and fluids and Duck Soup, Yogi started to have a little energy and put on some weight. Given his advanced age and the fact that he had bilateral adrenal tumors, we decided not to opt for surgery. A very wonderful shelter angel had donated several doses of

Lupron for my shelter kids. We started Yogi on Lupron.

One month later, no improvement. Two, three, four months later... still nothing. I sadly gave up hope for any results, but Yogi found a loving foster home with Gimmee Shelter Foster Mom Trudy Wallach. He and Jack are together now (Jack is the 9 and a half year old, blind, adrenal, insulinomic brother, but that is another story!)

One morning I received a call from Trudy telling me that when she tried to kiss Yogi's back this morning she noticed fuzz starting all over him! I could not believe it and had to see him. When he arrived I was ecstatic! Yogi had fuzz!! We took pictures and promptly resumed his shots of Lupron, which we had stopped about 1 and a half months prior.

Yogi now has a beautiful coat and good weight and energy. Jack is still doing well, too. Yogi is lucky to have found Trudy as his new Mom and the shelter angel who donated the doses of Lupron we originally used for him. He is also lucky for the guidance and advice of Dr. Karen Purcell, who also helped us. □



Fuzzy Events You Won't Want to Miss

SUNDAY, MAY 20 — 10 AM to 4 PM

Ferret Services of Freedom's 6th Annual Ferret Fun Day.
North Conway Community Center, North Conway, NH.

Vendors, contests, silent auction, and MORE! For more information call 603 539 5631 or e-mail ferret.svcs@rscs.net

SATURDAY, JUNE 16 — 10 AM to 4 PM

Ferret Frolic 2001!

This is MaFF and NEFFER's first joint effort, and our official SPRING FROLIC.
Amvets Post #74, Three Rivers, MA.

See the flyer enclosed with this issue of The Fuzzy Papers! Or, for more information, call 413 562 5014, or send e-mail to NEFerrets@hotmail.com, OR, visit the MaFF website at www.maferrets.org and see the Events section.

SUNDAY, JUNE 24 — 11 AM to 3 PM

Come and Frolic with Luv of Ferrets Shelter & Rescue.

Tewksbury Senior Center, 175 Chandler Street, Tewksbury, MA.

Games, Contests, Judged Classes, Trophies, Ribbons, Vendors, Professional Pet Photographer, Cutest Ferret Pictures Candid/Professional. For more information call Jo Fowler, Shelter Mom at 978 851 7781

Admission: \$2 for Adults; \$1 for Seniors; Children Under 14 FREE.

Do You Have a Matching Funds Program Where You Work?

If your employer has a matching funds program, you could make a contribution to MaFF and get it matched, because we are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization!

Check with your Human Resources Department and find out!

Maybe you can give MaFF more than you thought you could!

MaFF Welcomes NEFFER

MaFF welcomes NEFFER, a NEW ferret organization! New England Foster, Education, and Rescue, Inc., is "A ferret advocacy group dedicated to promoting proper ferret care, expanding education about the needs of the domestic ferret, and providing rescue service for abandoned ferrets throughout New England."

NEFFER may be reached by telephone at 413 562 5014, or via email at NEferrets@hotmail.com. Their (snail) mail address is PO Box 1165, Westfield, MA 01086, and their web site is at www.community.masslive.com/cc/ferrets. NEFFER will focus on fund-raising, education, a foster care network, rescue service, and support for ferret shelters and rescues throughout New England. Our congratulations on the launch of NEFFER, who will be a close ally to MaFF!

Books Available from MaFF

The following books can be purchased from MaFF. Proceeds go to benefit MaFF's mission of shelter, education, and outreach.

Essentials of Ferrets – A Guide for Practitioners

by Karen Purcell, DVM — \$49

The Ferret — An Owner's Guide to a Happy Healthy Pet

by Mary Shefferman — \$12

Ferrets for Dummies

by Kim Schilling — \$19.50

Practical Guide to Ferret Care

by Debra Jeans — \$18

The Pet Ferret Owner's Manual

by Judith Bell, DVM, Ph.D. — \$12

Add \$4 to the above prices for shipping and handling, and send your order to: MaFF, PO Box 3123, Wakefield, MA 01880. Or, for more information, send e-mail to info@maferrets.org.

The Adventures of MacLeod MacFerret

Episode 8: Ferrets vs. Gators

by Barbaralee Baron and Cyndi Farr

HUMANS are curious, strange creatures. They have these things called "sports." One of these sports is basketball. They have a large orange ball that they bounce up and down a long wooden floor they call a "court." Then, they try to put the ball into this tall thing with a wire hole on it called a "basket." I always thought a basket was something that you curled up in and took a nap. This basket didn't look like the one I had at home. It was made of a nylon net and went all the way through.

I watched one of these games and it gave me an idea. Albert, the University of Florida mascot, stopped by our seats. He was intrigued with me. He never saw a ferret before. At least he didn't try to eat me. I proposed an idea to him about a game between my ferret team and his gators.

Two days later, our human counterparts brought us to the Martin Luther King Center to play. My team consisted of myself, Cassie, Albie, Taz, and Mouse the cat. The gator team was made up of Albert, Alberta, Teddy Dupay (a small gator), Udonis Haslem, Major Parker (both Fort Lauderdale - spring breakers gators), and Matt Bonner (a gator from New Hampshire - never they had gators up north). The referees for the game were Brian Shea and Chris Breen, both veterans of the game.

Now you see, gators can't stand up on their hind legs, which gives us ferrets an advantage. Unfortunately, their tails are longer than ours, and they use them to bounce the ball. Udonis, being a long gator, tipped the ball to Teddy and the game began. Using his tail to bounce the ball, he advanced down the court. Just as he neared the basket, Cassie

made the steal. Ferrets are good at stealing. She immediately tucked it into herself and scooted backwards down the court. Half way down, she ran into Major Parker's open mouth! He spit her out, making a three point shot. Brian blew his whistle calling a foul on Major. He did however count the basket, giving the gators the lead.

Dazed, Cassie quickly recovered and started to bring the ball back down. Matt tried to steal the ball with a swipe of his tail, but she passed the ball off to Taz, who, using her nose, bounced the ball in for a two point basket. The game went back and forth until the fourth quarter with a tied score and five seconds left to go on the clock. The gators had the ball and were quickly advancing down the court. I moved towards Udonis who tried to pass off to Matt (who was in foul trouble for trying to eat Mouse). Stealing the ball, I started scooting as fast as I could, covering the distance to the basket. As I neared it, Teddy blocked my way. I sprang into a weasel war dance, up and over him and sank the basket just as the buzzer sounded. Final score: Gators 21, Ferrets 23!

As I shook paws with Albert, he asked for a re-match. I told him I'd get back to him after we all took naps. Man, this game pooped me out. Why humans like to play it, I'll never comprehend. I'll take playing digga-digga in the potted plants any day. □

**Stay Tuned for
Episode 9!**



Massachusetts Ferret Friends — Spring 2001

There's No Time Like the Present . . . Join the MaFF NOW!

If you're not already a contributor to the MaFF, or if you'd like to renew your membership, you can do so by filling out this coupon and sending it in, or send email to info@maferrets.org, or call us at 781 / 224 1098 for a contribution form.

Please indicate one of the following — New Membership Renewal

name _____

address _____

telephone () _____

Level of Support — Friend (Individual) \$25 Family \$35 Sponsor \$50

Total enclosed \$ _____

Your contribution is valid for one year from date of issue and includes a MaFF card, a subscription to the MaFF newsletter, *The Fuzzy Papers*, and special offers on ferret-related items from other interested businesses and organizations. Massachusetts Ferret Friends, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Please send this coupon, along with your contribution as a check or money order to: Massachusetts Ferret Friends, Inc., PO Box 3123, Wakefield, MA 01880

TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR MAILING LABEL for the expiration date of your membership!
Be sure to renew your membership before your expiration date so you won't miss even a single issue of *The Fuzzy Papers*! If you need a renewal form, use the coupon on this page, or contact the Membership Group by calling the MaFF Hotline at 781 / 224 1098, or sending e-mail to member@maferrets.org. DO IT TODAY!

Massachusetts Ferret Friends, Inc.
PO Box 3123
Wakefield, MA 01880
(a nonprofit organization)

