

INTRODUCING A NEW FERRET INTO A FAMILY'S BUSINESS

Bringing a new ferret into an established business doesn't need to be stressful. These six best practices for introducing a new member to the four-legged family will help to make the experience fun, exciting and easy for everyone involved.

1 ISOLATE THEM. When you first bring your new ferret home, it is best to isolate your new ferret from the other pets. A 14-day isolation is recommended to avoid the spread of any harmful viruses and bacteria that the new ferret could be carrying from the pet store. A clean home with a clean litter box and plenty of food and water will allow your new ferret to get used to his new surroundings while providing a clean bill of health.

2 WHAT'S THAT SMELL? Pull bedding, blankets and toys from the other four-legged family members and place them in isolation with the new ferret. This will allow the new ferret to associate home and comfort with the smell of the other pets. Do this with your dirty laundry as well. This will make the family unit familiar.

3 KEEP IT SMALL. Choose a smaller, enclosed space that both the new ferret and family pets are familiar with. They will sniff, nip and play. Never leave them alone together even after they are familiar with each other. As much as they are our family, we have to remember that they are animals.

4 ONE AT A TIME. If more than one four-legged member of the family needs an introduction, start with the friendliest. Introduce them one at a time giving each pet time to get used to each other before you introduce another. If you have ferrets and other species of pets living in the same house, get the ferrets on the same page before you introduce the new ferret to the family dog or cat. Letting the dog or cat see the other ferrets accept the new member will model positive behavior.

5 PLAY WITH THEM. Encourage friendly engagement with shared toys and playtime. Dogs and ferrets love to chase balls and play wrestle. Cats and ferrets share a fondness for teaser toys and bell toys. Reward all fur babies with healthy treats.

6 INCLUDE THEM IN ROUTINE. The caretakers of large families, businesses or farms know the importance of getting all of your babies on a routine. By the time the 14-day isolation is over, your new ferret should be litter trained and getting used to your family routine. Including your new family member in the family routine as soon as possible after individual introductions will ensure that feeding patterns, other ferret personalities and environment details are imprinted in their minds when young.



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Your new ferret will soon start following the business and making themselves at home. Love and comfort go a long way.