

Adoption Requirements and procedures for Five Points Ferret Refuge

We do not adopt to anyone under the age of 18. Parents who wish to adopt a ferret for their children should understand that we are adopting a ferret to the *parent*, not the child, and that we expect that the *parent*, not the child, is bound to the terms of our adoption contract and intends to be responsible for the ferret for his or her entire life.

We require that all applicants complete our adoption screening procedures, as outlined below. This includes the completion of an adoption application, participation in a telephone interview, an initial in-home formal interview and advice on ferret proofing as needed. IF approved, a trip to the shelter is required to pick up your adopted ferret(s). * If you already have ferrets, we like to bring the adopting ferret/ferrets with us to see or insure that they will get along.

We require that all adopters fully understand and agree to the terms of our Adoption Contract. These terms include, but are not limited to, the adopter agreeing:

- That ferrets require daily runtime of a bare minimum of two hours a day (more is desirable) and that ferrets **cannot be left caged all the time.** Ferrets are not hamsters, gerbils, or mice and require a great deal more hands-on care than those pets.
- That adopted ferrets will be kept as pets and for no other reason;
- That adopted ferrets will be housed indoors in a safe, secure, ferret-proofed area;
- That adopted ferrets will be provided meat based foods and treats that are suitable for ferrets and meet the nutritional requirements of ferrets;
- To provide annual vaccinations for adopted ferret(s);
- To provide timely medical treatment to an ill ferret;
- To provide any medical treatment necessary for an ill ferret and not choosing euthanasia as an alternative treatment for cost-saving purposes; and
- That if for any reason the adopter cannot keep any adopted ferret they will inform Five Points Ferret Refuge and Five Points Ferret Refuge will have final say in the new home or the ferret ***will be returned to our rescue. No exceptions!!!***

This is merely an overview of our adoption terms.

We ***request***, but do not require, that our adopters subscribe to our public Ferret Yahoo group [ferret_whisperer](http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/Ferret_Whisperer/). http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/Ferret_Whisperer/

(The ferrets in our rescue become members of our family, and just because you take one home does not mean that we no longer care. By joining our group, you will have a source of continuing education, support, advice and understanding from other ferret owners who love their pets just as you do.)

Adoption Procedure

Our rescue is not a business. Our rescue is not a hobby. We are committed with all of our hearts and souls to making sure that not only do the ferrets in our rescue get adopted into a new home, but that they are adopted into their **perfect forever home** - the home that they should have gotten the first time around.

We do not take adoption lightly, and we will not adopt to anyone who does. We are thorough in our screening process, and if you are the right person to adopt one or more of our ferrets, you will not mind this. The following is our adoption procedure:

1. The first step is to fill out our Adoption Application.
2. Your application will be reviewed. At that point, we may contact you for more information, and to set up a telephone interview.
3. A telephone call and interview at a prearranged time convenient for both the adopter and us. The telephone interview is an informal conversation in which we can get to know the adopter a bit more and to discuss adoption, ferrets, their care and needs, etc. The goal of this interview is to ensure that a potential adopter is indeed ready for the responsibility of ferret adoption and care and also to determine whether any of our ferrets currently in the rescue would be a good match for the adopter. (This call can take from 15 minutes to over an hour so needs to be at a time when everyone has time to talk.)
4. The next step is to arrange a meeting. If you are adopting a ferret to be a companion for another ferret you already own, we may bring him or her or them at this time. More information about this can be provided during your telephone interview. This visit will provide the opportunity for an adopter to meet the ferret/s available for adoption, and give us the opportunity to see an applicant interact with ferrets, to answer any questions the adopter may have, and to give advice about ferret proofing and care. Ferrets are not necessarily adopted out at this first visit and a decision about adoption is not always made at this time. (Again this visit may be quick or take sometime.)
5. After the first visit if the adoption was not made, we review the applicant's information once again regarding the suitability of the applicant. If approved we will contact you with the good news!
6. You will then pick up your newest family member!

Once again, we realize that our adoption procedure is thorough, but in our eyes, our adoption procedure is a matter of life and death ... to the ferrets who trust us to place them in their loving, forever home.