

# The Ferret: Essentials for the Practitioner

Dr. Cathy Johnson-Delaney reviews the basics of ferret husbandry and medicine.

## Speaker Bio:

Dr. Cathy Johnson-Delaney practiced avian and exotic animal medicine in the greater Puget Sound area of Washington State for over 30 years, retiring from clinical practice in 2013. Dr. Johnson-Delaney was board certified in avian and exotic companion animal medicine, and she has helped to advance the fields of exotic animal and laboratory animal medicine. She has served as President of both the Association of Avian Veterinarians and the Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians. Cathy was named the 2009 recipient of the Oxbow Exotic Mammal Health Award and the 2003 Exotic DVM of the Year. Cathy has presented internationally on all aspects of non-traditional companion animals, and she has also written extensively on related topics, serving as co-editor of the BSAVA Manual of Exotic Pets. She is the principal author and editor of the 2017 textbook Ferret Medicine & Surgery.

## Learning Objectives:

1. The practitioner will have an understanding of ferret anatomy and physiology, including major differences from the dog and cat.
2. The practitioner will be able to identify different common coat colors and patterns, including those associated with congenital deafness.
3. The practitioner will have knowledge of basic behaviors, nutrition, clinical techniques.
4. The practitioner will be able to formulate a preventive health plan for the life of the ferret.
5. The practitioner will be able to recognize some of the most common ferret health disorders, determine diagnostic testing needed, and initiate effective treatment programs.

## Agenda:

- The Basic Ferret: Overview of Anatomy and Physiology
- Specific Ferret Things
  - Behaviors
  - Nutrition
- Having Ferrets in Your Clinic
  - Equipment
  - Accommodations
  - Staff Training
  - Resources
  - Client Education
- Essential Ferret Techniques
  - Restraint

- Medication Administration
- Injections
- Fluid Therapy
- Blood Draws
- Preventative Health Plan
  - Start at purchase
  - Vaccinations
  - Examinations
  - Deslorelin implants
  - Dental care
  - Diagnostics and imaging
- Common Ferret Disorders
  - Dental Disease
  - Gastrointestinal
  - Ear mites
  - Cardiopulmonary
  - Neoplasia
  - Musculoskeletal
  - Urogenital