

## TIMELINE OF THE DOMESTIC FERRET LEGALIZATION EFFORT

**1930's**

All ferrets are banned under a broad statute prohibiting non-native species.

**1990s**

Four state bills fail. Twice the Fish & Game Commission rejects regulation changes.

**2004**

The Legalize Ferret Bill, SB89, passes the state legislature, only to have Governor Schwarzenegger veto.

**2017**

With no legislative representation for 13 years, attempts to permit domestic ferrets through the Fish & Game Commission fail.

**FUTURE**

Currently requesting local city councils to become ferret friendly cities and working to secure support in the legislature.



## ABOUT US

Founded in 2015, Angel City Ferret Club exists to advocate for domestic ferrets and their owners in Los Angeles.

Join us to shift public opinion, build relationships with local politicians, and support the statewide effort to legalize domestic ferrets.

[www.ANGELCITYFERRETCLUB.com](http://www.ANGELCITYFERRETCLUB.com)



@ANGELCITYFERRET

#LEGALIZEFERRETS



## STATEWIDE

### LEGALIZE FERRETS

An organization dedicated to fighting for the legalization of the domestic ferret throughout California.

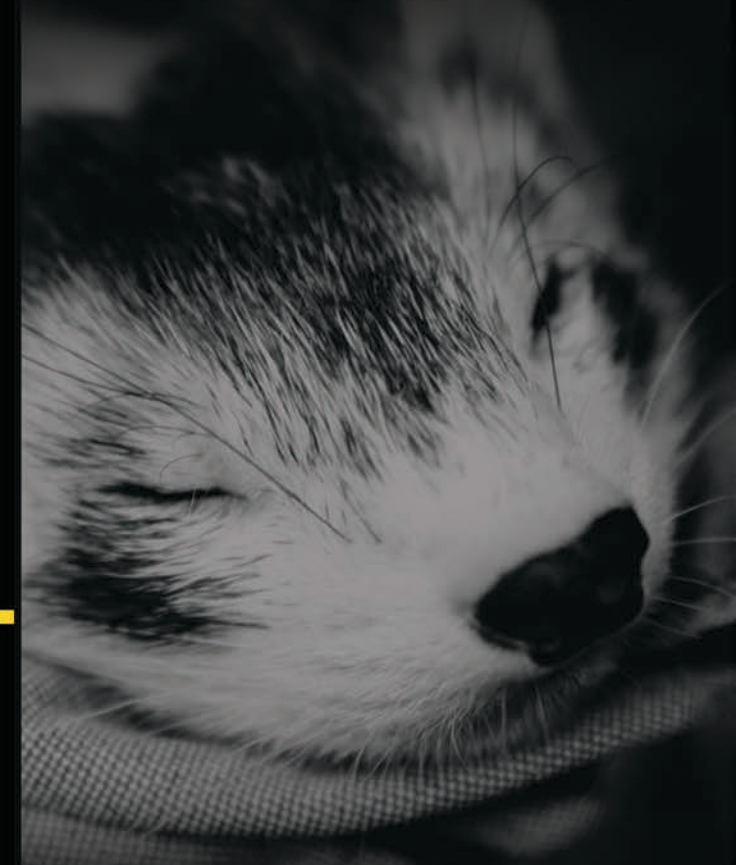
### DONATE

Please visit the website below to contribute to the legalization effort.

[www.LEGALIZEFERRETS.org](http://www.LEGALIZEFERRETS.org)

CALIFORNIA, IT'S TIME TO

# LEGALIZE FERRETS



OWNING A DOMESTIC FERRET IN CALIFORNIA IS A MISDEMEANOR. THE STATE CLINGS TO AN ILL-INFORMED, OUTDATED LAW. LET'S CHANGE THAT.

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DOMESTIC FERRETS ARE LEGAL IN

**48 STATES**



IN CALIFORNIA, IT'S A MISDEMEANOR  
TO OWN A DOMESTIC FERRET

\$1,000 FINE  
UP TO 6 MONTHS IN JAIL  
PET CONFISCATED

ACCORDING TO THE CDC,  
USDA, AND THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
FERRETS ARE

**DOMESTIC**



MEANING THEY ARE  
GENETICALLY DIFFERENT THAN  
THEIR WILD COUNTERPARTS

**THERE ARE NO  
FERAL FERRETS**

**THERE IS NOT A SINGLE  
KNOWN FERAL FERRET  
COLONY IN THE  
UNITED STATES.**

The domestic ferret **will not**  
survive for more than a few  
days if left in the wild.

A domestic ferret has  
**never transmitted rabies** to  
a human or other animal.

Domestic ferrets can be  
used as **support animals** to  
detect seizures, or  
provide emotional support.

**DOMESTIC  
FERRETS DON'T  
THREATEN  
WILDLIFE**

**QUICK FACTS  
ABOUT FERRETS**



**1.4 BILLION**

Number of birds killed by domestic  
house cats per year. However no  
state reports any significant impact  
of domestic ferrets on local  
ecosystems or agriculture.

**2,000**

Ferrets were domesticated from  
European Polecats 2,000 years ago.

**1988**

A rabies vaccine specifically for  
domestic ferrets has been  
administered since 1988.

**200**

You are 200 times less likely to be  
bitten by a ferret than a dog.  
(And more likely to be bitten by a human, too!)



## **Ferrets are domestic animals, not wildlife.**

- The CDC<sup>1</sup>, Humane Society<sup>2</sup>, and USDA<sup>3</sup> all classify ferrets as domestic animals, not wildlife.
- Ferrets were domesticated from European polecats over 2000 years ago.<sup>4,5,6</sup>
- There are several studies linking domestic behaviors of animals, such as ferrets, to genetics rather than experience or training from interacting with humans.<sup>7</sup>
- Domestic ferrets, by definition, are an animal, that has been tamed and kept by humans as a work animal, food source, or pet, through selective breeding, and became notably different from their wild ancestors.<sup>8</sup>
- Domestic ferrets are the only domestic animal in the scientific family Mustelidae. They are not rodents and are cousin to the otter & black footed ferret of the central United States.

## **There are no feral ferrets and ferrets do not spread rabies.**

- In 2009, all 50 states were surveyed by California State University Sacramento and none reported having a feral ferret population.<sup>9</sup>
- The domesticated ferret only exists in people's homes.<sup>10</sup> If the domestic ferret escapes to the outdoors it will not survive for more than a few days.<sup>11</sup>
- To avoid pet overpopulation and prevent health problems, every Marshall Ferret is neutered (spayed/castrated) and de-scented before being sent to authorized pet dealers. Marshall ferret is the largest breeder in the United States.
- A Rabies vaccination specific to domestic ferrets has been available since 1988.<sup>12</sup> Less than one ferret per year test positive for rabies. This is in contrast to the more than 200 cats and 140 dogs that are found carrying the virus every year.<sup>13</sup> Domestic ferrets have never transmitted rabies to a human or another animal.<sup>14</sup>
- In the 1880s the New Zealand government imported, released and bred domestic ferrets with polecats in the thousands to assist with pest control. This led to a feral hybrid population that did cause harm to native wildlife but it is not a feral domestic ferret issue.<sup>15</sup>

## **Ferrets do not have an impact on agriculture or wildlife populations.**

- Because there are no feral domestic ferrets, they do not inhabit natural ecosystems and have no roles.<sup>16</sup>
- No state reported any major impact on agri-business, or any major opposition to ferrets.<sup>12</sup> Unlike cats, who are responsible for the deaths of 1.4 to 3.7 billion birds and 6.9 to 20.7 billion mammals every year.<sup>17</sup>

## **Ferrets make great pets.**

- Domestic ferrets are more 'dog-like' than 'wild ferret-like' due to genetic breeding.<sup>15</sup>
- They share many qualities with dogs & cats. They are affectionate, playful, intelligent, quiet, and small. Domestic ferrets adjust easily to humans schedules and are not nocturnal. They recognize their name, respond to verbal and visual commands, can learn to do tricks<sup>11</sup>, and be trained to use a litter box.<sup>16</sup>
- Domestic ferrets can be used as service animals detecting seizures or providing emotional support.<sup>18, 19</sup>
- Ferrets can coexist peacefully and amicably with cats and dogs.<sup>20</sup>

## **Ferrets are not 'vicious, blood thirsty animals' and are safer than dogs.**

- Like all pets, ferrets need to be taught what acceptable behavior is.<sup>11</sup> Dogs are at least 200 times more likely to bite than are ferrets.<sup>21</sup> In fact, based off of statistics, you are more likely to be bitten by a cat, rabbit, snake, or even a human being than a domestic ferret.<sup>22</sup>
- The CDC indicate that a ferret bite is far less severe than what can be inflicted by a cat, dog, or even another human child.<sup>10</sup>
- The media have sensationalized a few cases indicating that a ferret viciously attacked a baby or child. In all reported cases, the ferrets had suffered from extreme animal abuse (and in many cases, the child had also suffered from neglect.)<sup>10</sup>
- The ASPCA and the HSUS warn "that No pet should be left unsupervised with a child.<sup>22</sup> When ferrets are around small children the interaction should be monitored as closely as you would with a dog.

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October 22, 2017

### **Why Culver City should be Ferret Friendly:**

- Over 600 signatures collected in less than a week for a Ferret Friendly Culver City.
- 3 Veterinarian offices in Culver City treat ferrets, Access, Culver Palms & CenterSinai.
- 6 pet stores sell products to ferret owners. (food, toys, bedding, litter) Petco & PetsMart have dedicated ferret sections. 28% of the country's ferret supplies are sold in California.
- La Mesa City Council just voted to support ferrets, 5-0
- The State's claims to keep ferrets illegal are unfounded. Ferrets are not wild but domestic house pets according to the CDC, Humane Society & USDA. No state has ever reported having a feral ferret problem. The species of ferrets that are kept as pets do not live any where in the wild. They are breed to be with humans.

### **What would Ferret Friendly mean for Culver City?**

A Ferret Friendly Culver City would mean that the city acknowledges there are ferret owners living here who should not be living illegally, and possibly convicted of a misdemeanor, for owning a house pet that is legal in 48 states. Though the city cannot supersede state law, they can stand with their local business, ferret owners and enthusiast by publicly supporting legalizing domestic pet ferret ownership in California.

## **Angel City Ferret Club**

Recipient: Mayor Jeffery Cooper

Letter: Greetings,

Mayor and Council Members,

Please stand with your local pet owners, business and ferret enthusiast. Culver City should recognize that domestic ferrets are pets and issue a proclamation supporting the legalization and decriminalization of ferret ownership in California.