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Public Education

Ferret Care
Ongoing ferret care is required to ensure the pet can lead a happy, fulfilling, and healthy life. A vet visit should be arranged as soon as a ferret is adopted. At the initial checkup, the vet will inspect the ferret for signs of illness and will recommend certain vaccinations, including a rabies vaccine and a canine distemper vaccine.

A pet ferret requires an annual vet visit. During these appointments, the vet will perform a thorough physical exam and may take blood samples to get a better idea of the pet's current health. Early detection and prompt treatment are crucial for maintaining the well-being of pet ferrets. Common ferret illnesses exist and require immediate medical attention.

Signs of a healthy pet ferret

- Shiny, full coat
- A healthy weight (not too thin or obese)
- Consistent, solid stool
- Urinating normally and regularly
- Have a sense of playfulness and good energy

Pet ferret illness symptoms
Pet ferrets are susceptible to certain diseases and illnesses like other pets. Common health issues in ferrets include the following:

- Hairballs
- Dental disease
- Heart disease
- Adrenal disease
- Insulinoma
- GI tract problems, including blockages caused by ingesting foreign objects

- Respiratory infections
- Parasites, such as fleas, ticks and ear mites
- Skin conditions like dermatitis and hair loss due to poor diet or allergies

--Expert input provided by Teresa Manucy, DVM, a veterinarian based in Jacksonville, Florida, and pet health representative for Chewy; and Dwight Alleyne, DVM, a veterinarian at Acres Mill Veterinary Clinic in Canton, Georgia.

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