



July 29, 2015

Dear Community Leaders,

The West Michigan Ferret Connection, based in Grand Rapids, Michigan, supports the following proposed legislation and pet store program. We would like Michigan community leaders to encourage humane pet acquisitions through shelters and foster-based animal rescue organizations.

1. The Large Scale Commercial Dog Breeder Act SB 339 will help to curb puppy mills in the state.
2. The Humane Pet Acquisition Ordinance to prohibit the retail sale of dogs, cats, rabbits, ferrets, long-lived birds and large reptiles in local communities, which will protect families from irresponsible pet retailers.
3. The Puppy Friendly Pet Store program encourages pet supply stores to make an official policy not to sell puppies or kittens. The WMFC would like ferrets included.

Since 2001, the WMFC has focused on rescue, adoption and boarding ferrets. I've been able to re-home over 500 ferrets since that time. It has also been passionately promoting and educating the public wherever and whenever possible about the domesticated ferret. I'm very proud of the work I do. My rescue ferrets are my biggest inspiration and they keep me going.

Banning retail sales of ferrets would be a dream come true. The trauma a kit (baby ferret) endures in just the first 8 weeks of its life is inhumane, e.g. neuter/spay between 3-5 weeks old, premature weaning, shipping at 6 weeks, sales to impulse/uneducated buyers at 8 weeks.

Although the WMFC is based in Kent County, I don't have a "territory". I cover the entire state of Michigan taking in and re-homing ferrets.

Sincerely,

Dee Gage

Founder, West Michigan Ferret Connection
1361 Oaklawn Street NE
Grand Rapids MI 49505
616*447*2978