

The art of mustelid massage

After a hard day at work—racing to get to the litter pan on time, creating a backup food stash in case the primary one is discovered by the boss, and wrestling for hammock rights—our ferrets deserve some rest and relaxation. AFA interviewed the world's finest mustelids to learn these refreshing massage techniques you can do at home. George and Gracie Barber, a pair of Maryland ferrets, generously volunteered to pose for these photographs.

Some of our Olympic track and field ferrets have very tired paws. For four-foot access, recline your weary tube racer like a sleeping baby. This is so relaxing that even the fastest athletes will fall asleep during the massage.



Famous ferrets from every corner of the entertainment industry love a facial. Fresh, white fur and a perfectly rounded mask are most important to our favorite spokesmodel ferret Slinky Crawford.



One of the most unusual places ferrets like to be massaged is on the back of their hind legs. This secret spot is the key to the high kicks of the world famous Dookettes, who have taken their big Christmas show on the road since being exiled from Radio City Music Hall in New York.



The scruff is a sensory center and a great place for a stimulating scratch. Kodo and Podo needed a scruff massage to gear up for their big scene rescuing the Beastmaster from quick-sand. One method is to lay the ferret on its back and rub along the shoulder blades with curved, index fingers. Use your thumbs to steady the ferret's body.



Every ferret we interviewed expressed their great appreciation for a rump rubbing. George reciprocates with kisses.

A certain unnamed English ferret in the royal family has very large ears that need to be massaged regularly to ensure proper blood flow. Most ferrets, however, will enjoy any attention that does not involve a cotton swab.