
The American Ferret Association, Inc.

Presents

**Breeding Better Ferrets:
The AFA Ferret Breeder Symposium**



June 20-21, 2008

Wintergreen Resort

Route 664, Wintergreen, Virginia

<http://www.wintergreenresort.com/>



The logo for ZuPreem, consisting of the word "ZuPreem" in a bold, white, sans-serif font inside a black rounded rectangular border.





Your Symposium Support

Registration/Advertising Information:

Vickie McKimney, Symposium Registrar

Phone: 301-898-1568

Fax: 240-358-0673

afaevents@earthlink.net

Phone: 1-888-FERRET-1

afa@ferret.org

Our Symposium Sponsors



www.ferretdepot.com



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www.ferret.com

Purpose

The American Ferret Association is an organization devoted to the health and welfare of ferrets. We are offering this one and a half day educational symposium geared to the experienced ferret breeder, the novice ferret breeder, and even those considering breeding ferrets in the not so distant future. That's why AFA is sponsoring this in-depth ferret breeder symposium, with the following goals in mind:

- The AFA believes breeders should strive to provide each ferret with the best possible existence, through good husbandry, knowledge of breeding and breeding principles, and the education of others.
- The AFA further believes that because we, as humans, are entirely responsible for the control of the gene pool of ferrets (*Mustela furo*), that once we take a hand in the creation of life (i.e.; breeding ferrets), we are responsible for that life for its lifetime.
- The AFA recommends that the practice of breeding ferrets not be undertaken without careful consideration of the responsibilities involved.

AFA is proud to introduce Dr. Carmen Battaglia, world renown speaker and author of ***Breeding Better Dogs***. Dr. Battaglia will take a highly sophisticated, scientific and technical subject like genetics and make it not only easy to understand but even fun. He will be tailoring the material he developed for dog breeders specifically for ferret breeders in order to provide an easy method for comprehending genetics and analyzing pedigrees. Dr. Battaglia will be speaking on Saturday, June 21, and his topics will include:

- Breeding principles and how to develop a breeding plan.
- Developing and maintaining records for breeding.
- What information is important in selecting your breeding stock.
- How to pick the right sire and dam.
- Pedigree analysis, recessive and dominant traits, heritability of traits.
- How to understand the strengths and weaknesses in your pedigrees.
- Evaluating litters and choosing the best ferret kit.
- How to develop the competitive edge, and win in the show ring.

Friday Session Agenda

The symposium will kick off on Friday afternoon with a session all ferret breeders need to attend. Dr. Ruth Heller, a well-known ferret veterinarian and ferret breeder will discuss ferret repro issues. This session will include information on: pyometra; pregnancy toxemia; problem deliveries; when to do a C-section; congenital neonate issues; ovarian tumors, carcinoma; vaginal cysts; mastitis, regular and gangrenous; vasectomy; cryptorchids; testicular tumors and more. We will also be providing everyone with a list of items all breeders need to have on hand prior to the start of breeding season.

The ferret repro session will be followed by a session on nutrition for breeding hobs, breeding jills, and for kits during their critical growth period. We will also discuss various supplements and when and if you should use them. This session will also include tips and trick for successfully hand raising kits from less than a week old.

Friday will finish with a session titled *“Everything you wanted to know about ferret breeding but were afraid to ask.”* This will be a panel discussion lead by several of the leading ferret breeders in the country. If you have questions about ferret breeding, this is the place to ask it!

Friday Evening Reception

7:00pm to 9:00pm

Meet Dr. Carmen Battaglia
Reception and Book Signing
Network with other breeders

Saturday Session Agenda

- Breeding principles and how to develop a breeding plan.
- Developing and maintaining records for breeding.
- What information is important in selecting your breeding stock.
- How to pick the right sire and dam.
- Pedigree analysis, recessive and dominant traits, heritability of traits.
- How to understand the strengths and weaknesses in your pedigrees.
- Evaluating litters and choosing the best ferret kit.
- How to develop the competitive edge, and win in the show ring.

Speaker Faculty

Carmen L. Battaglia Ph.D.

Carmen was given his first dog by his grandfather when he was five years old. That was the beginning of a lifelong fascination with all aspects of dog behavior, breeding, training and showing. He has personally bred and finished several Champions, Select Dogs, Futurity and Maturity winners. Today, he is considered an expert as well as a highly respected AKC judge of more than 40 breeds.

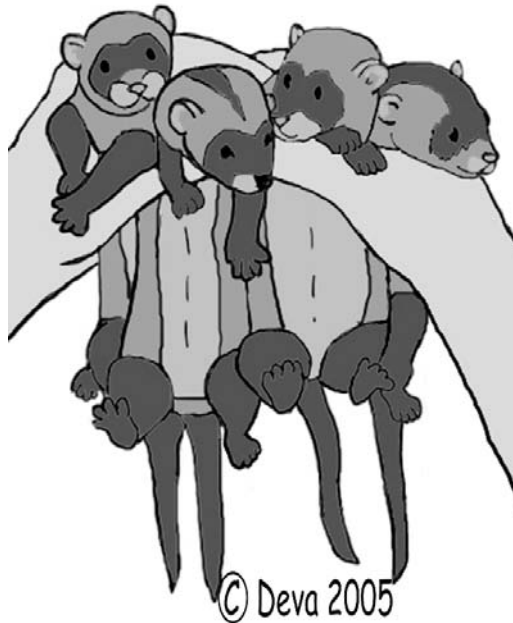
By education, (holding a Masters and Doctorate from Florida State University), he is a researcher, lecturer and author. His articles have appeared in the "AKC Gazette", "Dog World", "Dog News", "Canadian Shepherd Journal", "South African Dog Magazine" as well as dog publications in Australia and Ireland. Being very active in the dog world, Dr. Battaglia is a Director of the American Kennel Club and has served as Chairman of such important committees as: National Genetics Committee (German Shepherd Dog Club of America), the American Kennel Club Committee for the Future, the Operations and Planning Committee, as well as the Health and Education Delegates Committee. The AKC called upon his expertise in genetics to create and develop their DNA program. He is also a much-sought-after speaker on this topic for television and radio talk shows.

Author of several different books on dog breeding, Dr. Battaglia has gained worldwide recognition, most notably for the program he developed - "Breeding Better Dogs". Popular demand has prompted the creation of a seminar for dog clubs which mirrors his book and a video of this method which has been presented across the country and considered an imperative foundation to any successful breeding program.

Dr. Ruth Heller, DVM

Dr. Ruth, as she's widely known in the ferret community, received her veterinary degree from the New York State College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell. She has had a special interest in ferrets and ferret medicine for her entire professional career. Dr. Ruth first became fascinated with ferrets as a teenager, when she met one belonging to her older sister's friend. She didn't have much more contact with ferrets until vet school, when she worked for Dr. Drew Noden, an embryologist studying ferret fetal development. This led to a meeting with Dr. Judi Bell, who was the veterinarian for Marshall Farms, and also led to two summer internships working with her at Marshall Farms.

Dr. Ruth's first ferrets came directly from Marshalls. Later she found the world of privately bred ferrets, and nothing would ever be the same. Dr. Ruth has owned ferrets since 1992 and has been breeding them since 2004 as co-owner of Ravensnest Ferrets. Dr. Ruth volunteers her time as a member of the AFA Health Affairs Committee and is currently spearheading a study to determine the duration of antibody titers following distemper vaccination in ferrets (see the AFA website for more details).



Confirmation & Accommodations

Confirmations with directions will be sent out as registrations are received.

Reservations: **Wintergreen Resort**
 1-800-926-3723
 Route 664, Wintergreen, VA 22952

Internet address: **<http://www.wintergreenresort.com/>**

Reservations ID: **AFA Ferret Breeder Symposium**

Room Rates: **\$50-\$187 (plus tax) per night**

Nestled in a beautiful mountain setting and surrounded by breathtaking views, Wintergreen Resort offers tastefully furnished studios, charming mountain villas and luxurious condominiums perfect for a romantic getaway, family holiday or corporate retreat.

Our 300 accommodations range from studios to seven-bedroom homes featuring comfortable living areas, fully equipped kitchens and a balcony or deck. All accommodations of one bedroom and larger include a cozy fireplace.

AFA has secured an alternative to reserving multiple accommodations at Wintergreen Resort. The private home adds a level of comfort and community for our attendees. During your stay, guests accommodated in private homes managed by Wintergreen Resort are granted access to all the superior dining, recreational and resort amenities of the Resort. All are furnished and fully equipped and most include outdoor decks created to enhance your mountain top relaxation.

Studios can be reserved for \$187 (plus tax) per night. Reservations for attendees wanting to stay with other attendees in Wintergreen Resort homes will incur a \$50+ (plus tax) per night reservation fee (depending on the number staying in the home). For more information on group home rentals, please contact AFA at afaevents@earthlink.net. **Reservations must be made by May 20, 2008.**

Advertising

Advertising is available in the proceedings book. All ad copy must be camera ready – NO colored business cards please. Ad copy must be received by May 15, 2008. Please send ad copy to the address on the registration form.

A:	Full Page	7.5" w x 10" h	\$100.00
B:	Half Page horizontal	7.5" w x 4.5" h	\$ 50.00
C:	Half Page vertical	3.65" w x 10" h	\$ 50.00
D:	Quarter Page	3.65" w x 4.5" h	\$ 30.00
E:	Business Card	3.65" w x 2" h	\$ 20.00

AFA Breeder Membership Fees

One Year Breeder Membership	\$ 75.00
Two Year Breeder Membership	\$ 146.00
Three Year Breeder Membership	\$ 217.00

AK, CA, HI, Intl add \$10/year to above fees.

See the AFA website for other membership levels and pricing.



Registration Fees:

Registration fee includes all lectures, instructional materials, refreshment breaks, continental breakfast and lunch for that day.

AFA Symposium Registration Fees

AFA Breeder Member	\$ 95.00
AFA Member (not Breeder Level)	\$115.00
Not an AFA Member	\$145.00

AFA Symposium Late Registration Fees (after April 30, 2008)

AFA Breeder Member	\$135.00
AFA Member (not Breeder Level)	\$155.00
Not an AFA Member	\$185.00

Register Early and Save!

When you register, **become an AFA Breeder Member and receive:**

- \$50 Discount on symposium registration (\$95 vs \$145)
- **American Ferret Report** 4 times a year
- 10% off AFA Products
- 10% discount at Ferret.com
- Free entry to AFA Spring & Winter Nationals
- FISH Program
- \$2.00 discount (show entries - Spring & Winter Nationals; no limit on entries)
- Text Listing on AFA Web Site for 1 year

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

ZIP Code _____

Home phone _____

E-mail address _____

Ferretary Name _____

Registration Fees

Prices include tax and service charge

- Symposium Registration Fee**
- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| AFA Breeder Member | \$95.00 | _____ |
| AFA Member (Not Breeder) | \$115.00 | _____ |
| Not an AFA Member | \$145.00 | _____ |
- Late Registration Fee, add \$40**
(after April 30, 2008) **\$40.00** _____
- AFA Breeder Membership Fee**
- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| For One Year add \$75 | \$75.00 | _____ |
| For Two Years add \$146 | \$146.00 | _____ |
| For Three Years add \$217 | \$217.00 | _____ |
- AJ, CA, HI, Intl please add \$10/year
- Proceedings Book Advertising**
See page 9 for advertising rates _____
Circle: A B C D E
- Charitable Donation**
\$250, \$100, \$50, \$25, Other _____
(Donations may be tax-deductible for those who itemize.)

Total Amount: _____

Method of payment to guarantee registration:

- Check made payable to AFA American Express Discover MasterCard Visa

Card Number _____

Expiration Date (MM/YY) _____

VCode _____

Name listed on card _____

Please send this
form and payment to:

AFA
c/o Symposium Registrar
11018 Powell Road
Thurmont, MD 21788

Fax Number:
(240) 358-0673

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