



American Ferret Association, Inc.

PO Box 554 ♦ Frederick, Maryland 21705-0554
www.ferret.org ♦ afa@ferret.org ♦ 1-888-FERRET-1

AFA PROTOCOL How to Handle a Bite or Scratch Incident

Introduction

"Rabies!" -- a word which generates as much fear in the pet community as cancer or AIDS. The fear of contracting rabies from a ferret bite or scratch will lead many public health and animal control officials to take extreme, sometimes irrational, actions. Much like AIDS a great deal of the fear associated with rabies comes from a lack of knowledge and understanding of the disease, how it is contracted, and what is or is not considered a risk. This fear, coupled with the lack of information or misinformation about ferrets currently circulating through the public health and animal control communities, have been the cause of the unwarranted deaths of many healthy pet ferrets--- a loss which might have been prevented. Many times an animal is destroyed not because it could possibly be rabid, but because no one wanted to be responsible for the liability.

The chances of saving your pet's life following a bite or suspected bite incident will be greatly enhanced if you take the time to prepare, in advance, for such a possibility. Here are a few things you can do to lay the groundwork you will need to defend your pet and yourself.

I. Before a Bite or Scratch Incident Occurs

- 1. Teach your pet not to bite:** Take the time to socialize your pet properly . Teaching the ferret what is and what is not acceptable behavior will not only lessen the chances that your pet will be involved in a bite incident, but will also give you a more trustworthy and enjoyable companion. Always supervise your pet around children and people who are new to the animal. *Never leave any animal alone with an infant or small child or one who is unable to remove himself/herself from the presence of the animal.* If your ferret cannot be trusted around strangers, it is advisable not to take it out in public. Always maintain control of your pet in any new or potentially stressful situation. Even a well-behaved animal may react unpredictably in a crowd, near a noisy area, or during a veterinary examination, particularly if the animal is not feeling well to begin with. If you are exhibiting the ferret (i.e., at a ferret show or educational event, in a pet store, or as a breeder), do not allow the public free access to your animal. Learn how to hold your ferret properly and teach others to do so as well. Don't rely on the credentials of an unfamiliar person to necessarily know how to hold your pet. Inform a new veterinarian, seasoned ferret owner, or prospective owner about the ferret's personality and idiosyncracies.
- 2. Keep rabies vaccination current:** Even if your pet is indoors and, therefore, cannot possibly come in contact with a rabies vector, it is still a wise idea to have your ferret immunized annually against rabies. If your ferret is involved (or even suspected) in a bite or scratch incident, adequate immunization and knowing the history of the animal may be your only bargaining points with local health authorities! "Adequate immunization" means vaccination by a licensed veterinarian, who administers a vaccine product licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for that species, according to the product's label. It is strongly recommended to have on hand a copy of the ferret's current vaccination record, as well as the name and telephone number of the veterinarian who administered the vaccine, whenever your pet is interacting with the public.

- 3. Know the laws, ordinances, and policies which affect you:** The regulation of rabies prevention and management is at the local level; there are no federal laws, and very few states have statewide laws. Therefore, it is important that you are aware of city or county laws, which may change from locale to locale. The time to become familiar with this information is *before* you need to utilize it. In most cases following a contact incident, events move far too quickly for you to have the time to obtain and study laws and rules. In addition, you will be under a great deal of stress and could easily miss or misinterpret an important piece of information.

Though most government authorities think they are acting in a manner that protects the public's best interest, many cite recommendations from state or national organizations that may not conform to local laws governing the jurisdiction where the incident occurred. It is your responsibility to find out what your rights are, i.e., whether or not a Risk Assessment is required, whether there is discretion in whether or not a ferret is automatically killed or tested for rabies, and most importantly -- whether or not you are entitled to a hearing. You must assert these rights. No one is obligated to inform you.

- 4. Know your ferret resources:** Actively participate in ferret organizations. The American Ferret Association (AFA) monitors rabies testing and bite statistics nationally, as well as legal actions and media response. State and local organizations also should be involved in such activities. Local organizations should monitor rabies testing, i.e., how many animals are killed and tested for rabies annually. They should also be keeping track of laws, ordinances and policies, activities and media in your area. Your participation in local groups is encouraged, because the information and contacts will be far more specific to the area in which you live. In a crisis, a local club can often respond faster and with a greater understanding of the politics and personalities involved. You may also have the advantage of meeting owners who have been involved in past incidents with their ferrets and have first hand knowledge of how the system *actually* works, in contrast to how it *should*. Ideally a local club should maintain a library of information which is updated periodically and can be easily accessed when needed, so that you will not have to keep it on hand. It is also advisable to have one or more individuals identified within the organization as contact points in cases of emergency. To find the closest ferret organization to your area, contact the AFA at 1-888-FERRET-1 (Eastern time zone) or email at afa@ferret.org.
- 5. Get to know your local jurisdiction:** In addition to the local laws and ordinances, get to know your local health department, animal control system, and local veterinarians. This can be accomplished through volunteer work, joining local civic groups (e.g., humane societies, 4-H) and participation in local meetings and activities. Work with public health and animal control authorities to develop a rational case-by-case risk assessment for ferrets if one isn't already in place.
- 6. Know your veterinarian:** The veterinarian is recognized as an animal health "expert" who might be called upon to assess the status of your ferret in the case of a bite incident. Make sure your veterinarian likes and treats ferrets, and that he/she is familiar with your ferret(s). He/she should maintain complete records of your ferret's health, which accurately reflect the health and the immunization status of your animal. The proper vaccine (with the date of immunization, vaccine name, manufacturer, date of expiration, and lot number) should be recorded. Although many states do not require it, the only record of rabies vaccination that may be recognized by the courts and in different jurisdictions across the U.S. is the National Association for State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) FORM 50 or FORM 51 to record rabies vaccination. *Demand a completed signed copy.* Besides vaccination, your ferret should receive a full physical examination by a veterinarian at least annually. A veterinarian should record a complete description and health assessment of your animal. In the event of a contact incident, he/she would be required to document the health status of your animal prior to and at the time of the incident and to identify any signs suggestive of rabies virus infection. Therefore, a baseline record of your ferret's health status may be pivotal in the assessment of rabies risk and the handling of the bite incident.
- 7. Stay alert to local media and changes in your local regulation:** Increased media coverage about dog bites, pot-bellied pigs and other animals may be a warning sign for changes in sentiments towards pets, including ferrets. Anti-ferret laws can be enacted quickly and without much notice. Changes in local health officials and animal control authorities may provide an opportunity to educate new employees on the habits and pet qualities of ferrets, as well as an opportunity to change negative policies. Sit in on city council meetings and learn which committees are responsible for animal control and get on the list(s) of

persons notified of "rule" hearings, i.e., the way you as a private citizen can influence the rule-making process. This can be done on a local or state level.

8. **Develop a plan:** Your plan should address the above issues. Make sure you and your family members know what procedures should be followed in an event of an incident.

II. If Your Ferret Is Involved in A Contact Incident

1. **Follow your plan:** If you have followed the above recommendations, you should be prepared for the many events which may happen very quickly. Do not panic!! While you need to be aware that an exposure incident is a very serious matter, you need to maintain a calm and reasonable composure. Your sense of urgency or concern will be picked up by the person who has received the alleged bite or scratch, who will then feel they have cause for concern.
2. **Determine if a bite or scratch occurred:** Calmly determine whether a bite or scratch *actually* occurred. This is extremely important. If the skin was not broken, there is *no potential risk to developing rabies* from contact with that animal. Even bites or scratches from rabid animals which do not break the skin, cannot transmit the virus.
3. **Wound Care:** If the skin was broken, wound care should be started immediately. Apply soap and water; use disinfectants if they are available, but don't wait to be seen by a physician or for other disinfectants, which can be used later. Once cleansed, the extent of the wound should be evaluated to determine if further medical care is needed. Unlike dog and cat bites, ferret bites usually don't become infected, nor do they generally require surgical attention. However, a tetanus booster should be administered in the event that the bite victim's immunization status is outdated, i.e., more than 5 years.
4. **Assess the situation:** The emotional state of the involved individual is very important to assess. If a child has been bitten or scratched, pay close attention to the parent(s) and their reactions. Take notes (preferably written) of the incident (time, place, circumstances, witnesses). Gather as much information surrounding the circumstances of the incident as possible. Knowing exactly what happened, why, and the sequence of events will not only help you defend your pet, but will also give insight into weak areas in your pet's socialization or areas you need to be more aware of when taking your pet out in public.
5. **Reassure the involved individual:** This is where having the copy of the vaccination certificate and the name and number of the veterinarian becomes important. If you can produce documentation that your ferret is up to date on its rabies vaccinations, the concern over the possibility of rabies often ends there. It is a very good idea to reprimand your pet immediately in the presence of the person bitten or scratched for the misbehavior. This shows that you are in control of your pet. If you feel your pet can be trusted, after the reprimand, re-establish contact between the individual and your pet. This way the last memory will be of a normal situation, not the bite, and will help to diminish anger, fear or apprehension they may feel towards you or your pet. Calmly answer any concerns from the individual or, in the case of a child, from the child's parents. If a child is involved and the parents are not present, go with the child and speak to the parents. Children, especially very young children, often describe the world in exaggerated terms, not the way you want the incident described to the parents. Make an effort to get the victim to take care of the wound site (see above). If the bite is severe enough to require medical attention, offer to pay the bill (this is your liability as a pet owner under the law, anyway). This will give you an opportunity to speak with the doctor and to answer any of his/her concerns about the health of your pet. Be prepared to provide copies of the health records of your pet, the name and telephone number of the veterinarian and to answer any questions about the animal's history.
6. **Notify your ferret resources early:** Inform those who may be involved in an effort to save your pet as early as possible. Before matters escalate, notify your local ferret organization(s), providing them with as much information as possible regarding the circumstances and current status of the situation. Give them your impressions of the emotions and attitudes of the victim, witnesses, and any other parties involved. Once this information has been collected and evaluated, you or your local organization can seek further

assistance, if needed, by contacting the American Ferret Association.

7. **Quarantine your pet:** Isolate your pet from any other animals and people and maintain this isolation until you know that the matter is not going to involve consideration of rabies testing of your pet. Local authorities have been known to seize and test all animals associated with the biting animal, if there is any question as to which animal actually did the biting or if they claim that the other pets might be infected by a potential rabies source. If possible, board the animal with a veterinarian or local ferret shelter. A local club may be able to assist you in finding a temporary placement with a suitable facility.

III. If Health Authorities Demand Your Pet For Testing

There has never been a documented case of rabies transmitted from a ferret. However, this may not stop public health authorities from demanding your ferret if it is involved in a bite or scratch incident. In response to an incident, public health departments feel obligated to act immediately. For more detailed information about rabies, see **Appendix A**.

1. **Enact your plan:** Your plan should address the following:

- a. ***Expect the Unexpected***

Health and animal control officials may not respond logically or rationally. Get your pet out of harm's way. If at all possible move your pet out of the local jurisdiction of the public health, animal control and law enforcement agencies *before* they demand it for testing. This is important for two reasons: First and foremost, once your pet is in the hands of animal control or public health, it is an almost certainty that it will be destroyed and tested for rabies. You may, in the long run, be able to prove that their actions were improper and recover your costs, but the life of your pet has been taken and cannot be replaced; Second, it forces the officials to acknowledge the local legal process to force you to surrender your pet.

- b. ***Don't Believe Everything You Hear***

Be sure to request the actual law, regulation, or ordinance covering the jurisdiction in which the bite incident occurred. The governing law, regulation or ordinance may differ significantly from the recommendations and guidelines of public health organizations.

- c. ***Control the Timing of Events***

If your pet is seized by authorities, the timing of the events is determined by the local authorities, often not by what is required under law or written ordinance. If the seizure can be delayed, it affords you and/or your legal representative a chance to speak in defense of yourself and your pet, to get the facts into the official record, and to have a impartial third party decide the fate of your pet. Another benefit to this tactic is that it deprives them of the control of time. Many animals are destroyed because there simply was not enough time to generate and to file the necessary papers to obtain a court order preventing it.

2. **Mobilize your support:** If you haven't done so already, mobilize your local and national ferret resources. This will show the authorities that there is an organized group to be dealt with, the kind of group that can be in several places, doing several things at once. Contact your ferret's veterinarian. If you are able, obtain an attorney. One of the favorite tactics of public health and animal control is intimidation. Having legal representation, as well as a third party who cannot be bullied sitting in on any meetings and hearings not only lends a great deal of moral support to the pet owner but sends a clear message that you will demand all rights and considerations under the law. Contact your elected representatives. It will impress upon the local jurisdiction that any actions taken by the authorities will be accountable to the local residents and taxpayers who wield some political power.
3. **If possible, enlist support of the bite victim:** Your position can be greatly strengthened by having the bite victim on your side. In many jurisdictions the local rabies policy requires either the testing of the animal or the post-exposure treatment of the victim with no exceptions. Health and animal control authorities will often bombard the bite victim with stories of the horrors of rabies and how it is fatal to humans to push them to support the destruction of the animal. This is because they cannot force a person to undergo any medical

treatment against their will. In the absence of countering information, most individuals break down. If you can work something out with the bite victim so that they are willing to undergo the post exposure treatments and you pay for them, this is usually enough to save the animal from testing.

4. **Demand your legal rights:** Pets and other livestock are considered by the law to be personal property. Your right to due process of law is a constitutional mandate based on the Fifth Amendment, which provides that no person shall "be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law," and on the Fourteenth Amendment, which prohibits governmental agencies from encroaching on the individual's rights without due process. In order for the government to exercise its power over you, due process requires that you be given:
 - a) notice of the proceedings or actions against you,
 - b) an opportunity to prepare for the proceedings,
 - c) the chance to be heard both in presenting your own claim and in defending against the government's claims against you,
 - d) a fair hearing before an impartial tribunal.

Do not hand over your pet unless you are presented with a court order. If you are ordered to surrender your pet, immediately demand your right to a hearing. If your animal is taken, get a receipt. The receipt should show the date, description of the property taken (your pet), by whom the property was taken, and for what purpose.

5. **Involve the media:** National organizations can generate media attention and support. However, your local club should have cultivated media contacts through their various human interest events. Use the public forum to shine a harsh light on the activities against you, even if it is just in the form of a Letter to the Editor in your local paper. There are always one or more reporters who delight in exposing governmental misdeeds. These are the people to draw attention to and to generate support for your plight. The more unreasonable the position taken by public health and animal control, the easier it should be to sell it to the media.

Remember, many health officials are appointed by elected officials. Adverse publicity and any correspondence should be copied to the political figure responsible for the appointments of the offending officials and to your media contact. They will see that you are, in essence, contacting their boss. The politician will see the potential for harmful publicity and possibly liability in the current interpretation of the law. Every little bit helps.

6. **Act within the law:** If the local authorities successfully obtain a court order, which requires you to surrender your pet for quarantine or testing, first verify that the order is proper. You may wish to speak with an attorney. If the court order is valid, assert whatever rights to appeal you may have. These should either be spelled out within the text of the order, or can be gotten by speaking to the judge issuing the order or someone on his/her staff. Above all comply with any valid legal authority. To defy the law severely damages both your credibility and the credibility of those who may be trying to help you. The people who are unreasonably trying to destroy your pet can and will make a point of holding up your lawlessness as justification for their own extreme actions. Sometimes you are in a position where you may lose your pet but can come back and make them pay a greater price later. Learn from these setbacks so that you will know where the weak points in your strategy are, as well as those arguments that were used successfully against you. Come back even stronger.

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We remind you, however, that if the local laws, ordinances, or policies are not in your favor, it is up to you and others in your area to change them. For more information on how to support change in your local area, please contact the American Ferret Association's Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee by writing the AFA P.O. Box 8056, McLean, VA 22106-8056 or call 1-888-FERRET-1, or by electronic mail at afa@ferret.org.

APPENDIX A

Rabies - An Overview

What is "Rabies" and How is Rabies Infection Transmitted?

Rabies is a viral disease. All warm-blooded animals (and humans) can contract rabies. While the rabies virus can be transmitted by a variety of ways, including organ transplantation from an infected individual, the most common means of transmission is through contact with virus in the saliva of an infected animal. This usually occurs through a bite wound. Transmission can only occur if the animal is excreting the virus in the saliva at the time of the bite. Therefore, not all bites are potential exposures to rabies. Clinical rabies in humans is very rare in the United States, occurring in approximately 2-6 people annually (see Table A-1). While dogs and bats are the most common sources of human rabies, there has never been a case of human rabies transmitted by a ferret. Rabies is exceptionally rare in ferrets. Since the U.S. began systematically documenting cases of rabies in the 1940's, there have been approximately two dozen ferrets documented with rabies, two of which were thought to be related to the administration of a modified live rabies vaccine no longer in use. Many scientific studies now point to the ferret being a "dead-end in the cycle" of rabies transmission.

What is "exposure to rabies mean"?

Exposure to an infected animal can occur if your pet comes in contact with an animal infected with the rabies virus usually through a bite wound. Two conditions for transmission of the rabies must occur: 1) the biting animal must be *infected* with the rabies virus, **and** 2) the rabies virus is *excreted* in the biting animal's saliva at the time of the bite. Bites alone do not automatically mean that rabies virus has been transmitted. Indeed, humans are fairly resistant to getting rabies. Contact with a rabid animal can occur if your pet escapes outdoors, or is left unsupervised outdoors for any length of time. For ferrets, contact is usually unlikely, since most pet ferrets are housed indoors and, once escaped, do not survive well on their own.

What is a "risk assessment"?

Any bite or scratch should be evaluated to determine if there is a risk for developing rabies. This evaluation, called a "risk assessment," that is an evaluation of the potential risk of getting rabies from the biting animal, should be conducted for any bite incident. The basis of management of both the offending animal and the bite victim (animal or human) is determined based upon the potential for the bite to transmit the rabies virus. Although not universal at this time, risk assessment has now been incorporated into many laws and regulations, and national recommendations.

In some jurisdictions healthy ferrets with no history of exposure-- some of which were even adequately vaccinated-- are being needlessly killed and tested for rabies. This unfortunately has even occurred where the laws or regulations require a risk assessment to be conducted. Public health authorities often refer to a document called the "Compendium of Animal Rabies Control" produced by the National State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) which is a policy document, **not** a law or regulation. While the 1998 version of the Compendium now includes ferrets in every section as dogs and cats, including the section on quarantine, many state and local laws and regulations may differ.

Rabies is not a "spontaneous" disease. Direct contact with an infected animal or the saliva or brain tissue of an infected animal is required. The ferret's history is important. If the ferret has a "closed" history for exposure covering at least 120 days prior to the contact incident, it is not possible that it is infected. In such cases no action should be taken. If the animal does not have a closed history, however, has escaped or was running free at the time of the incident, what was the maximum period of time the animal was free? If the ferret was bitten by a rabid animal the moment it escaped, the minimum number of days the rabies virus has been shown to incubate in the ferret is 6 days. In less than this time period, the virus would be unable to make it up to the brain, replicate and then be excreted in the saliva. In addition, while ferrets have been reported to have had rabies virus in their salivary glands at the time of clinical signs or death, only in one experimental study did ferrets excrete virus in their saliva. In a study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, ferrets inoculated with a raccoon rabies viral variant excreted virus in their saliva for up to two days prior to showing clinical signs of rabies. These results, along with other studies conducted by CDC, are compatible with a 10-day quarantine period.

Does vaccination status matter?

While it is theoretically conceivable that a vaccinated ferret might get infected with rabies if the vaccine was given improperly, or the animal's immune system was unable to respond to the vaccine, this is a *highly* unlikely scenario. Indeed from 1991 to 1994 there have been 6 pre-exposure rabies vaccine failures (Pam Wilson, Texas Department of Health, Zoonosis Control Division, 512-458-7255), none of which have ever occurred in ferrets. While vaccination status alone may be insufficient to rule out the possibility of rabies, it should be used in conjunction with other criteria listed in this section to assess the risk to rabies.

Before there was a rabies vaccine product that is USDA licensed for use in ferrets, several ferrets contracted rabies from a modified-live vaccine product. Only killed rabies vaccine products are currently available on the U.S. market. Ferrets should be vaccinated using the IMRAB-3 vaccine (Rhone Merieux, Athens, GA), which is the only currently U.S.D.A. licensed product approved for use in ferrets. Any rabies vaccine should be administered by a licensed veterinarian.

What is “apparently healthy”?

“Apparently healthy” means that the animal shows no signs of illness suggestive of rabies, and the animal has not had a change in health or behavior in the past 30 days, including, but not limited to lethargy, lameness, weakness, slowness of movement or gait, paresis, paralysis, or loss of appetite, or a licensed qualified veterinarian having examined the animal prior to the contact incident has identified and documented that behavior or health changes were caused by a condition unrelated to rabies.

What does Incubation Period mean?

The incubation period is the time period between the entry of the virus into the body of another animal or human, and the time at which signs of disease appear. For some animals, such as humans and dogs, this can take years. However, in ferrets the incubation period is from 4 days to three months.

What is the “Viral Shedding Period”?

Once the virus enters the body at the site of the wound, it may stay there for a period of time. It then travels, via the local nerve endings to the brain, where it multiplies. The virus then travels through the nerves that go to the salivary glands, where it may be excreted, or “shed,” in the saliva. It is at this point the infected animal is “infectious,” that is, capable of passing the disease.

In ferrets, the signs of rabies include: changes in behavior, loss of appetite, anxiousness, headache in humans, anxiousness, fear, sleepiness, paralysis, paresis, fever, this may be coma, and often death. The aggressiveness of the animal appears to be dependent on the source of the originally infected animal.

What is Animal Rabies Testing?

There is no test that can be performed to determine rabies in a living animal. While serum proteins called “antibodies” may increase as a result of infection, they also rise in response to vaccination. Therefore, the only accurate way of assessing infection at this time is examination of brain tissue by special staining techniques. This requires the animal to be killed and the fresh brain tissue removed and quickly processed by laboratories that routinely conduct such testing.

The only “sure” protection against the possibility of developing rabies is pre- or post exposure prophylaxis. These regimens of vaccines and immunoglobulin confer both active and passive immunity to the rabies virus. If a person has undergone such a series, killing and testing the animal to determine whether or not it has rabies is unnecessary from a medico-legal standpoint.

Was the bite or scratch provoked?

A bite or scratch incident by an animal may be “provoked” or “unprovoked.” Provoked exposures occur as the result of some action on the part an individual (or animal), usually the one that was bitten or scratched. Provoked bites or scratches may occur when an animal is disturbed while it is eating, surprised, protecting its young or territory, or even while being handled or petted. However, if the animal attacks someone or another animal for no apparent reason, such as when the person is sleeping, or not interacting with the animal, this circumstance would be considered an “unprovoked” incident.

What is the status of rabies in the area where the incident took place?

It is important to know if rabies is endemic or epidemic in the location where the incident took place. If there have been lots of animals with documented rabies in the region, and the ferret has been found outdoors, the likelihood of it meeting an animal with rabies is somewhat increased.

Depending on the above questions, if the ferret is healthy, one may choose to do nothing, or the ferret may be quarantined. While state and local laws may mandate a specific approach, to date all scientific evidence on the pathogenesis of the rabies virus in the ferret is compatible with a 10-day quarantine period.

Risk Assessment

In order to assess whether or not the ferret could have potentially been shedding rabies virus at the time of the incident, the following steps are suggested:

Was the skin broken?

NO: No action needed. No exposure could have taken place.

YES:

Could the ferret have been exposed to rabies?

[If the ferret has a "closed" history, it would be impossible for the animal to be excreting the rabies virus in the saliva]

NO: No action needed.

YES:

Does the ferret appear healthy?

Yes: Observe the animal for 10 days.

NO:

Is the ferret showing signs of disease consistent with the diagnosis of rabies?

NO: Observe the ferret for 10 days in quarantine. **

YES:

Have these signs been identified prior to the bite incident by a qualified veterinarian?

YES: Observe the ferret for 10 days in quarantine.

NO: Consult a qualified veterinarian for further action.

NB: If at any time the bite victim agrees to undergo post exposure prophylaxis, the animal may be quarantined.

[If the animal is vaccinated, or the bite was provoked, or there is no rabies in the local region where the bite occurred, one may choose to do nothing.]

**NUMBER OF CONFIRMED RABIES CASES
IN THE UNITED STATES FROM 1980-1995**

YEAR	Cat	Dog	Livestock	Rodent/Rabbit	Human	Ferret
1995	288	146	193	54	4	2
1994	267	153	180	61	6	1
1993	291	130	183	64	3	1
1992	290	182	258	57	1	2
1991	189	155	308	63	3	0
1990	176	148	229	28	1	0
1989	212	160	211	21	1	0
1988	192	128	230	25	0	0
1987	166	170	223	12	1	2
1986	166	95	255	15	0	3
1985	130	113	260	23	1	2
1984	140	97	216	29	3	0
1983	168	132	284	21	2	1
1982	209	153	381	17	0	1
1981	285	216	581	10	2	1
1980	214	247	499	6	0	0
Totals:	3374	2425	4481	506	30	16
Average per year	210.9	151.6	280.1	31.6	1.9	1.0

[From: CDC Rabies Surveillance Reports: Annual Summaries
NB: There was also 1 ferret in 1954 and 1 ferret in 1978.]