The 5 Welfare Needs of Ferrets

Behaviour

Ferrets are really fun, sociable animals - so they make great pets! They usually sleep for about 20 hours per day but learn their owner's routine so they will be ready and waiting to play with you whenever you're free. They love to have things to explore and lots of toys - they'll even chase after and pounce on toys!

Company

Ferrets absolutely love the company of people. But remember, you can't always be around to keep your ferret company, so they may need a ferret friend, too. Littermates or ferrets that have grown up together often love to live together. You can speak to your vet, vet nurse or small pet expert to find the right friend for your ferret.

Diet

Ferrets are known as 'obligate carnivores' - this means they MUST have meat in their diet to stay healthy. The ideal diet for your ferret friend will include some ferret nuggets (biscuits), treats such as boiled egg or cooked chicken, and some ferrets are fed a raw food diet. You can check with your vet which is best for your ferret. And always make sure they have constant access to fresh, clean water.

Environment

Ferrets are really active animals - they love having things to explore! They need a nice large home to play in, and make sure you fill it with tunnels, tubes and toys. They love to dig, too - fill a box with some dried rice and they'll have so much fun with it! When it comes to nap time, they love nothing more than a hammock to relax and snooze in.

Health

As with many other small pets, it's a good idea to give your ferret a little health check every day. Do their eyes look bright, is their coat soft and shiny, is their skin free of scabs and sores? If you notice your ferret sleeping more, not eating or drinking, or just not behaving like you know they normally would, speak to your vet for some advice.

TAMAR VETS