



## Species Fact Sheet



### MAMMALS

<http://www.peoriazoo.org/mammals.html>

### Domestic Ferret

*Mustela putorius furo*

Peoria Zoo Exhibit Education Programs

<http://www.peoriazoo.org/education.html>

**Habitat:** Found in forested and semi-forested habitats near water sources.

**Range:** Found all over the world as pets

**Activity Cycle:** Crepuscular– most active during dusk and dawn

**Size:** They range around 19-22 inches long and weigh between 1.5-5 pounds with males being up to twice as long and 3 times as heavy as females.

**Social Structure:** They are polygamous, with one male being with many females. Babies are born helpless and are not considered adults until 6-7 months of age.

**Distinguishing Features:** Domestic ferrets, however, are available in many color and pattern varieties. They range from deep black and dark brown, white, chocolate and light sable.

**Diet:** High in protein-small vertebrates in the wild

**Life Span:** 7-10 years

### ***Did you know?***

***There is evidence of domesticated ferrets in Europe over 2500 years ago.***