



INTERNATIONAL FERRET CONGRESS AUSTRALIA

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Dear Ferret Friends

This letter is being sent to all ferret clubs and associations in Australia.

We are pleased to announce the formation of International Ferret Congress Australia (IFCA). IFCA is the Australian branch of the International Ferret Congress (based in the USA). There are also branches in Canada and the Netherlands. The IFCA strives to act as a channel of communication between Australian ferret owners and groups and the rest of the world to share advances in ferret information for all to benefit.

The aims of IFCA are:

- 1. To promote ferret care that will optimise the mental and physical wellness of the domestic ferret (*Mustela furo*).**
- 2. To provide information about ferrets and ferret care to all people, clubs or businesses that deal with ferrets.**
- 3. To promote proper health care and knowledge about ferrets by contact with veterinarians.**
- 4. To promote and represent ferrets' best interests at Local, State and Commonwealth Government levels.**
- 5. By the organising of symposia and forums, seek to educate, inform, and support best practises of ferret husbandry.**
- 6. To be both a source and receptor of information regarding ferret health and husbandry by communicating with similar organisations worldwide.**

Our web site will be developed over the coming months to further enhance communication, as well, each ferret association will receive regular updates by mail.

At this time, the IFCA will use the president from each ferret association as the point of contact. If you would prefer another member of your association to be a contact person, please let us know.

Initially, IFCA will work towards two main goals:

The first goal is to provide ferret owners and enthusiasts with annual symposia for communication and education for all who attend. It is hoped that the inaugural symposium will be held in 2008 in either Sydney or Melbourne. It is expected that future symposia will be held in each of the states in which ferrets are legal.

The second goal is to work with the RSPCA and government departments in all states to have the domestic ferret (*Mustela furo*) recognised as a domestic pet and afforded the same protection as other pets, such as cats and dogs.

IFCA is not in any way a regulatory body, nor does it exist to duplicate services provided by local societies. IFCA will refer ferret owners or potential owners to their local ferret society for all member services including rescue services.

We are keen for all ferret associations in Australia to be affiliated in order to better communicate between each other any issues that may be of concern or that may need addressing. For instance, some states have regular attempts by members of government departments to have ferrets banned.

It is recognised that by the time ferret organisations deal with the needs of their own members, event coordination, rescue procedures and so on, that there are few resources and little time to address other issues. This is the where the IFCA hopes to be helpful.

If you have any comments or questions about the IFCA, please contact us, either at mail@ferretcongress.org.au or by writing to the postal address on the letterhead.

Yours sincerely

Shirley Hewett
IFCA Secretary



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