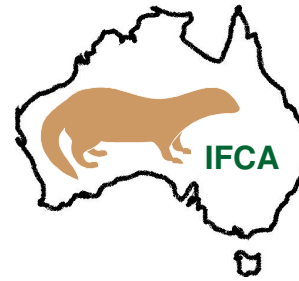


*Our Web Site*  
<http://www.ferretcongress.org.au>

*Our web site is now up and running!  
It currently features some basic info about IFCA,  
and we will continue to add to it over the coming  
months*

*If you have any questions, suggestions or  
comments, please don't hesitate to phone, e-mail  
or write.*



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## IFCA NEWSLETTER

February 2008 Edition 1



PATRONS: Dr Gary Hanly  
Dr Dariusz Bzdyl



As this is the first newsletter of the IFCA, it seems like a good time to explain a little more about our major focus, the Australian Ferret Symposium.

The plan is to have one and a half days (all day Saturday plus Sunday morning) devoted to ferrets with vets and ferret-knowledgeable folk giving presentations and being available for a question and answer session.

At the moment we are on the lookout for a suitable venue that is affordable to ensure that the Symposium can be attended by as many ferret lovers as possible. As well, we want the venue to be of a high enough standard to make the event as enjoyable as possible.

Attendees will be able to chose to stay in the "Symposium Accommodation" or commute from accommodation of their choice. The symposium dinner on Saturday night will also be optional.

An exact date has yet to be confirmed, but our first symposium is planned for March 2008. We are very excited to already have three charismatic and knowledgeable speakers, from Australia and abroad, willing to give presentations. Further details about the speakers, date and venue will be announced as soon as they become available.

Continued Over

## CLEARING UP MISCONCEPTIONS

The Symposium will be open to ferret lovers around Australia, as well as animal care professionals such as vets, vet nurses & students.

A special invitation will be issued to members of all Australian ferret clubs and associations.

Ferret Symposia in the US, Canada and the Netherlands have proved to be very popular, not only for providing the latest in ferret knowledge, but also for being extremely friendly and entertaining events!

### **Public Liability Insurance**

IFCA has begun making enquiries to see if a group discount for Public Liability Insurance is a possibility for Australian ferret clubs.

Public Liability Insurance protects the organisers of a group against legal action from threats such as personal injury at club events. It is also a requirement to be able to use some venues. However it is an expensive and sometimes unaffordable bill for local groups to pay.

We hope that if a group discount can be arranged, this will make it more affordable and accessible to ferret clubs and associations around Australia.

More information will be available soon.

To any people who have had a chance to read the Jan/Feb WAFFS newsletter, we would like to dispel some misconceptions.

An invitation was extended to Shirley Hewett (while she was attending the IFC Symposium in St Louis, USA in 2005) to form an IFC in Australia. At that time Shirley was a committee member of WAFFS and she suggested to the WAFFS Committee that WAFFS could become the Australian branch of the IFC. The idea was discussed among the Committee, but in the end was decided against.

The IFC has no intention of taking away credit from any sponsors of WAFFS. There is no precedent for a club to form a branch of IFC so it was suggested that a sticker on the WAFFS banner at events would be enough to show affiliation. As for the newly-formed IFCA, the name and the fact that its aims closely resemble those of the IFC is enough to show an affiliation.

Each branch of the IFC is run independently - no funds will be going from IFCA to the IFC in the US. In fact, the IFC has limited funds available to assist with the formation of new branches outside of the US, however we have not needed to take advantage of this generous offer.

IFCA has no need to raise funds for any of the Australian clubs, as they all do a fantastic job of this themselves. Any limited fundraising we do will fund Symposium events and other educational projects to benefit all Australian ferrets and their owners.

IFCA strives to provide at least one time per year where ferret enthusiasts can come together and learn about ferrets. These days will be in the form of Ferret Symposia where speakers have the chance to share their knowledge and bring us all up to date with the latest in ferret care and information. The symposia will include presentations by vets and other ferret-knowledgeable people and are open to other vets, student vets and vet nurses as well as ferret owners.

The benefits to club members and their ferrets are immense in that the opportunity is provided for ferret health care employees and ferret owners from all over Australia to keep abreast with the latest in ferret health and husbandry.