# Shedding, Controlling Loose Hair & Preventing Hairballs in Ferrets

*Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff*

Ferrets require little grooming. They do lick themselves and may develop hairballs in their stomachs during the spring and fall, when they shed their coats.

Hairballs may cause vomiting or even intestinal obstruction. Brushing your ferret with a soft brush or grooming glove (such as those used for grooming cats) helps get rid of loose hair, especially when a fluffy winter coat is being shed.

You can also control the ferret's exposure to loose hair by bathing once a week and frequently changing the bedding in the sleeping area. Some vacuum cleaners have pet-grooming attachments that do not terrorize ferrets the way they do cats, and this is a very efficient way to remove most of the loose hair. Treat ferrets at least once weekly during the shedding period with a malt-based cat or ferret laxative (e.g., Doctors Foster & Smith Hairball Remedy, Laxatone). Ferrets find these products very palatable and cooperate in eating the laxative from the tube.



*Unauthorized use of any images, thumbnails, illustrations, descriptions, article content, or registered trademarks of **Foster & Smith, Inc.** is strictly prohibited under copyright law. Site content, including photography, descriptions, pricing, promotions, and availability are subject to change without notice. These restrictions are necessary in order to protect not only our copyrighted intellectual property, but also the health of pets, since articles or images that are altered or edited after download could result in misinformation that may harm companion animals, aquatic life, or native species.*