

# 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.