

# Making a First Aid Kit for Your Ferret

*Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff*

Since you never know when an accident will happen, keeping a pet emergency kit at your home is a good idea. You can put a first aid kit together yourself and buy the items separately, or buy one ready-made. If you make one yourself, use a small plastic tub with a tight fitting lid to store the following items:

<p><b>Phone Numbers and Records</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Veterinary clinic phone number and directions to the clinic</li><li>• Emergency clinic phone number and directions</li><li>• Poison control center phone numbers</li><li>• Vaccination and health records and a list of medications your ferret is receiving - take these with you on every veterinary visit</li></ul> <p><b>Equipment and Supplies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Muzzle</li><li>• Magnifying glass</li><li>• Scissors</li><li>• Tweezers</li><li>• Nail clippers and metal nail file</li><li>• Styptic powder or sticks, Kwik Stop, or cornstarch</li><li>• Penlight</li><li>• Eye dropper or oral syringe</li><li>• Feeding tubes of various sizes if you are trained in how to use them</li><li>• Cotton swabs</li><li>• Cotton balls</li><li>• Clean towels - cloth and paper</li><li>• Rectal thermometer</li><li>• Lubricant such as mineral oil or KY Jelly (without spermicide)</li><li>• Disposable gloves</li><li>• Syringes of various sizes</li><li>• Needle-nose pliers or hemostats</li></ul>	<p><b>Bandaging Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Square gauze of various sizes - some sterile</li><li>• Non-stick pads</li><li>• First aid tape - both paper (easily comes off of skin) and adhesive types</li><li>• Bandage rolls - gauze and Vetwrap</li><li>• Band-Aids (for humans)</li></ul> <p><b>Nutritional Support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Highly palatable food such as Hill's a/d, Oxbow Carnivore Care or Eukanuba MaxCal (Feline)</li><li>• Rehydrating solution such as Gatorade or Pedialyte</li><li>• Nutritional supplement such as Nutri-Cal, Vitacal, or Nutristat</li><li>• High sugar source: Karo syrup</li><li>• Probiotics as advised by your veterinarian; often prescribed for ferrets receiving antibiotics</li></ul> <p><b>Medicines*</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wound disinfectant such as Betadine or Nolvasan</li><li>• Triple antibiotic ointment for skin</li><li>• Antibiotic ophthalmic ointment for eyes, e.g., Terramycin</li><li>• Eye wash solution</li><li>• Sterile saline</li><li>• Antidiarrheal medicine such as Pet Pectate</li><li>• Ferret or cat laxative in paste form</li></ul>
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- Grease-cutting dish soap
- Bitter Apple or other product to discourage licking
- Pet carrier
- Towel or blanket to keep your ferret warm during transport (some pharmacies and camping outlets carry a thermal blanket)
- Cold packs and heat packs (wrap in towel before using)
- Stethoscope

(e.g.; Doctor's Foster & Smith Hairball Remedy, Laxatone)

- Pediatric diphenhydramine (Benadryl) for allergic reactions (obtain dose from your veterinarian)
- Cortisone spray or cream, such as Itch Stop
- Ear cleaning solution
- Hydrogen peroxide (used to make a ferret vomit - only use as directed by a veterinarian)
- Activated charcoal to absorb ingested poisons (consult your veterinarian before using)

\*Watch the expiration dates on any medication, and replace as needed.