



**Hello all you ferret lovers out there. My name is Spot and I am the senior mascot at The Educated Ferret Assoc. My donation as a volunteer is to help educate humans as to why ferrets due certain things.**

**This class is on why ferrets eat things such as fabric, rubber and other things. First, not all ferrets eat fabric and we do not eat all fabrics. Just think what the fabric is made of. Wool comes from sheep and sheep smell like meat to us. Not many ferrets like sheep meat or even know what a sheep is, but they do smell like meat to some ferrets. Wool yarn is from the hair, which does not have a real strong meat smell; still some of us will eat pieces of a sweater, hat or mittens. One of our volunteers makes dingle balls and grooming hammocks for fundraising to help with the vet bills. She usually makes them from human made synthetic yarn. Someone donated some wool and**

**Mohair yarn. Pumpkin, my sister ferret, went into the bag and stole three balls. When rescue Mom went to do poop check there was lots of yarn in the poop. Yes, they were made of wool yarn. Flax and some cotton yarns with certain dyes are also sweet. No more animal hair dingle balls or items in the rescue.**

**Now most belts, wallets and human clothing like coats, hats, gloves, and vests are made from leather. Leather is processed animal skin. MMMMMM! It is hard to resist stealing, and better yet eating it. Some of us have strong urges to eat these things and we just don't understand why. Please be patient with us and remember we are obligated carnivores. Also our ancestors did not get their food made by humans, they caught their own. It was meat. Please always check clothing, bedding and any items when they are being cleaned to see if there are any new holes. Also monitor poops daily.**

**Other items of interest to a ferret are latex or rubber toys and acrylic fingernails. These are a no no for ferrets. All you humans know most ferrets are like little children. We love to eat sweet snacks.**

**When rubber toys are formed in a mold they have a slight dusting of powder to keep it from sticking to the mold. Ohhhhhh!**

**That powder smells so sweet to us. When you go to the pet store next time, pick up some of the squeaky toys and get a whiff of the smell that comes out when you squeeze it. A deaf ferret 20 feet away from a squeaky toy can smell the powder that is inside when a human squeezes it. They will follow the smell right to the toy even though they cannot hear it. Callie, our first mascot, taught us that. Our human purchased a baby toy with a Big Bird hanging off it. After monitoring the toy for a week the ferrets only played with it. Then one day Sparky chewed his feet off and ate them. It was a good thing she checks new toys frequently. A Petromalt regiment was very quickly started. The smell of a rubber ball, eraser, or human flip flops when you first purchase them are very strong. Another irresistible item is a balloon. We love to play with them, but they also have the same sweet powder inside. We once had a ferret pass several long pieces of hot pink and orange balloons. It**

Was a good thing this little girl was surrendered and her poops were monitored as she would have died without treatment. Please remember to monitor all toys and throw out any with teeth holes in them.

On fingernails. Many times a ferret that does not bite any human part will bite a woman's fingernails. If the fingernails have been painted with acrylic paint or a woman has had acrylic nails placed on her fingers, she is asking for a ferret to bite them. Nine out of ten women that enter the rescue with acrylic nails or polish have had a ferret bite their nail. Acrylic has a certain smell that ferrets take for something sweet. Even on of the best - behaved ferrets cannot resist trying to bite a nail or on occasion try to steal it.

At the rescue we have lots of ferrets coming and going and we test them to see what they prefer so their new families know what to keep away from them. Please remember some will only steal these things, but many will eat them without knowing why. Also most humans do not understand that inherited instincts are stronger

In some ferrets and not in others. Every ferret is different.

What goes in has to come out. If your ferret has ingested a small amount of fabric DR Karen Purcell recommends waiting for your ferret to eat then wait 45 min and give them a hairball laxative. This done three times the day of ingestion. If nothing is passed after 12 – 15 hours, then a vet visit is required.

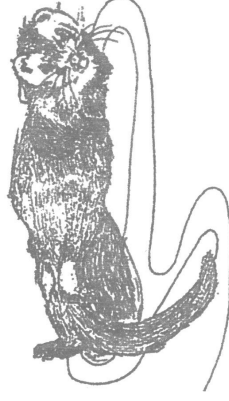
Signs of a possible blockage:

1. Holes in any bedding or toys
2. Vomiting
3. Diarrhea
4. Small pieces of plastic that have been chewed.
5. Blood in stool.

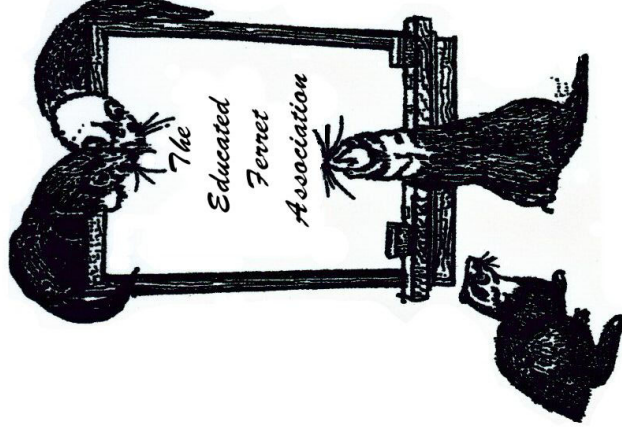
**PLEASE** remember any foreign object can create a blockage and a vet visit is always recommended.

Thank you for letting me share with all the humans who care. Give your ferret a hug today and he might just give you a play.

Spot



**Spot's thoughts on eating!  
Fabric and other things!**



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