

ferrets in need



Newsletter

Issue 4, June 2004

A bi-monthly newsletter designed to keep every member in touch with what's happening at Ferrets in Need. If there's anything you'd like to

see discussed in the next issue, or you have an article or photograph you think might be suitable for the newsletter, please contact the editors at

editors@ferretsinnneed.org.uk, or via the contact details available on the Ferrets in Need Web site at www.ferretsinnneed.org.uk

BAN IS STOAT-ALY UNWEASEL-ABLE

That was the headline in the Wigan Evening Post on the 11th May 2004 after they'd spoken with FIN member Charlotte Chadwick about the Portuguese ban on keeping ferrets as pets:

Planning a trip to this year's European Championships?

Northern lads and lasses aiming to take their ferrets with them as good luck charms will be shocked to learn that their furry friends are banned!

That is, unless a campaign launched by a North West MEP and backed by Wigan ferret owners is successful.

Portugal is the only EU country which is so far refusing to accept the new pets' passport proviso, which will give ferrets the same rights as cats and dogs to travel if they have been vaccinated against rabies.

The Portuguese authorities do not regard ferrets as domestic animals - it is illegal to keep them as pets, they can be used only for hunting purposes and must have a government permit.

Ferret fanciers in Wigan fear that other countries may follow Portugal's lead and ban the animal - which is the third most popular pet in Europe - from travelling to their countries.

And they are backing a campaign by North West Euro-MP Chris Davies to force Portugal to change its laws before the introduction of the pets' passports in July.

Charlotte Chadwick, who owns five ferrets, believes that the Portuguese stance could be a set-back to the reputation of ferrets as pets

She said "Not only is it bad, if one country stops ferrets, others could do the same and



realized what type of animal they are and they are good to keep as pets.

"This could be a huge setback. If I didn't keep ferrets and heard that they had been banned, that would just fulfil this image of this nasty, biting, smelling creature that couldn't be kept as a pet."

Charlotte, 29, of Mulberry Close, Pemberton, used to run a rescue for ferrets and believes they can offer owners the same enjoyment as dogs and cats.

She said: "You can't train them like you can a dog, but they are responsive to their names. They are so full of character it is unbelievable.

"If you have got ferrets you never watch television. They get up to so much mischief.

"They are always playing, dancing, hiding and climbing up things. You get more out of them than a cat. You can even take them for walks."

Chris Davies has called on the Portuguese government to change its rules and give ferret fanciers in the country the same rights as elsewhere in Europe.

they could end up being banned.

"It all just adds up to the reputation. Other countries are trying to get over they aren't vermin or vicious. They are wonderful pets.

"They were brought in to work rabbits but over time people have

defra have delayed the implementation of the pet passport scheme, due on July 4th, until at least October of this year.

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Events Diary



Our new venue for social evenings is the Vicarage Hall, St Ambrose Church, Hargreaves Court, off Warrington Road, Widnes. See our Web site or phone for details of how to get there if you're not sure. The social evenings have also now switched to the last Wednesday of the month.

June 2004

Saturday 19th June, Marple Carnival
Saturday 19th June, Hale Carnival
Sunday 20th June, Orford Park Walking Day
Saturday 26th June, Stretford Pageant
Sunday 27th June, Risley Wood Safari
Wednesday 30th June, Social Evening - Quiz

July 2004

Saturday 3rd July, Croft Carnival
Saturday 17th July, Winwick Carnival
Wednesday 28th July, Social Evening - Members Jill Show
Saturday 31st July Arley Country Fair

August 2004

Sunday 1st August, Pickerings Pastures Country Fair
Sunday 15th August, Collier's Wood Fun Day
Wednesday 25th August, Social Evening - Pot Luck Picnic & Ferret Racing

September 2004

Sunday 5th September, Woolston Show
Sunday 12th September, Rainford Rural Craft Display
Wednesday 29th September, Social Evening - Members Hob Show

FIN Sweeps the Board at Mercia Ferret Show

Well maybe not 'swept the board' exactly. But the FIN members who went down to Coventry to support Rose and Arthur Morris's show in aid of the Mercia Ferret Welfare did pretty well anyway.

Carol Owen's little mouse Lily was our star, coming first in the coloured jill class. But I think even Carol was surprised when her other coloured jill, Willow, came second in the same class.

Our other winner was Gimli Corbett, who won the disabled class, much to Ruth's evident astonishment.

Mercia Ferret Welfare will be holding another show around Christmas time, and I'm certain that all of us who attended the summer show will be looking forward to that. It's a nice, friendly event and a chance to meet up with old friends.



Lily Owen admiring her trophy for best coloured jill

Ferret Fun

Do you have a favourite ferret joke? Send it to the editor and we'll include the best in a future issue.

The year one teacher, Miss Finck, asked one of her pupils, "David, if I gave you two ferrets, and then two more ferrets, and then two more ferrets, how many would you have?"

David replied, "Seven ferrets, Miss Finck."

The teacher asked again, "Listen, David. If I gave you two ferrets, plus two more ferrets, plus two more ferrets, how many ferrets would you have altogether?"

David smiled, "That's easy, Miss Finck, I'd have seven."

"OK, David," Miss Finck said. "Let's try it a different way. If I gave you two cans of coke, plus two more cans of Coke, plus two more cans of Coke, how many cans of Coke would you have?"

"Six cans," David replied.

"OK," said the teacher. "Now think of that with this question. If I gave you two ferrets, then two more

ferrets, then two more ferrets, how many would you have?"

"Seven, Miss." David replied.

Exasperated Miss Finck asked, "Why seven?"

David replied, "Because I already have one ferret at home!"