

Domestic Ferret

Scientific Name: *Mustela putorius*

Class: Mammalia

Order: Carnivora

Family: Mustelidae



The Domestic Ferret head and body length varies from 8 -18 inches with a tail length from 3-5.5 inches. Ferrets can weigh from 7- 60 ounces. Males are larger than females, but females have longer tails than males. General coloration is dark brown to black, with the underfur being pale yellow, and clearly seen through the guard hairs. The area between the eye and the ear is silvery white.

Range

Western Europe to the Ural Mountains

Habitat

Open forests and meadows

Gestation

Approximately 42 days

Litter

2 to 12, usually 3 to 7

Behavior

The European Polecat is most common in open forests and meadows. It dens in such places as crevices, hollow logs, and burrows made by other animals. It sometimes enters settled areas and building occupied by people. It is nocturnal and terrestrial but is capable of climbing. It is usually solitary and silent, but has a variety of squeals, screams and other sounds.

Reproduction

Mating occurs from March to June, heat lasts for 3 to 5 days, and the gestation period is about 42 days. The young weigh .3 to .35 ounces at birth, open their eyes and are weaned after about 1 month, and become independent at around 3 months. Sexual maturity may come in the first or second year of life.

Wild Diet

Small mammals, birds, frogs, fish & invertebrates