

Ferret Illness Sympton Chart - Distributed by Ferret Association of Connecticut

	SYMPTOM	POSSIBLE DIAGNOSIS
Eyes	Bulging or swollen eyes	Glaucoma
	Runny or watery eyes	Allergy, cold
	Pus	Conjunctivitis
	Brown crusting	Distemper
	White spot or "disk" in eye/s	Cataract
	Blindness	Cataract
	Mouth	Pale gums
Red, sore or bleeding gums		Tarter buildup; gingivitis
Bluish gray gums		Lack of Oxygen
Blackened teeth		Dead tooth
Dark or stained teeth		Age, tetracycline as kit
Rash on chin and lips		Distemper
Drooling		Insulinoma seizure; poison
Clenched teeth		Insulinoma seizure
Scratching at mouth		Broken tooth, nausea
Vomiting		Foreign body, ulcers, ECE; hairballs; poison
Vomiting blood		Internal hemorrhage
Panting		Heat stroke; severe pain; insulinoma seizure
Nose		Sore on Nose
	Runny nose, sneezing	Runny nose, sneezing
	Short, broken whiskers	Poor nutrition, ill health
	Dark pink or red	Insulinoma seizure
	Bright red	Hypothermia (heat stroke)
Ears	Black inside	Excessive dirt
	Black inside, itching	Mites
	Yellow	Hepatitis
	Bad smell	Excessive dirt; yeast-type infection
	Growth	Tumor; infected bite
	Loss of hair on ears	Another ferret chewing on them
	Deafness	Congenital, Wardenburg's Syndrome (panda pattern); infection
Paws	"Splayed" feet	Housed on wire
	Hair loss	Age, adrenal disease
	Dry pads	Clay litter
	Dark pink pads	Insulinoma seizure
	Bright red pads	Hyperthermia (heat stroke)
	Rough, thickened pads	Distemper
	Roughened, scratched pads	Lost outside for significant period; housed outdoors/dirt/cement
	Long quick	Not regularly clipped
	Nail torn out	Caught on bedding; on cage wire
	Curled toes	Age, weak hindquarters

Legs	Limping	Stepped on
	Staggering	Insulinoma; stroke; ear infection
	Stiffness	Arthritis; age; over-caged
	Weakness in hindquarters	Age; arthritis; low blood sugar; general illness
Tail	Kinked	Previously broken; birth defect
	Lump at end	Chondromas
	Black spots	Blackheads
	Hair loss	Blackheads; age; adrenal disease
Fur & Skin	Dry	Sleeping in litter; poor nutrition; age; general illness
	Black spots	Flea dirt
	Fur falling out	Seasonal coat change; poor nutrition; stress; flea allergy
	Guard hair sparse	Regrowth of coat
	Thinning	Age; unnatural light cycle; adrenal disease; in heat or rut
	Pattern Loss: At base of tail	Adrenal disease
	Pattern Loss: Along side back	Adrenal disease
	Pattern Loss: Up back	Adrenal disease
	"Graying"	Natural silvering pattern; age
	Flaking skin	Flea dermatitis; poor nutrition; allergies; over-shampooing
	Yellowed	Hepatitis
	Reddened, rough skin	Allergies; fleas; sunburn; bites from others
	"Pinched" skin stays pinched	Dehydration
	Wart-like growths	Skin tumors
	Dark brown or black "moles"	Ticks
"Puffy," inflamed areas	Abscess	
Sore slow to heal	Diabetes; adrenal disease; cancer	
Lungs	Coughing	Cold, heart disease; lymphosarcoma
	Wheezing	Allergy; heart disease; pneumonia
	Rapid breathing	Heat stroke; pain
	Difficult breathing	Heart disease; pneumonia; lymphosarcoma; heartworm
Stomach & Spleen	Stomach distension	Intestinal blockage; heart disease; poison; internal tumor
	"Lopsided" abdomen	Enlarged spleen
	Hardened area along abdomen	Enlarged spleen
	Anorexia	Stomach or mouth ulcers; ECE
Urination & Defecation	Male "dribbling" or crying	Urinary tract blockage; bladder stones; kidney infection; adrenal disease
	"Sand" in urine	Bladder stones
	Heavy urination &/or excessive thirst	Diabetes; kidney infection
	Inability to urinate	Kidney failure; blockage

Inability to defecate
Diarrhea

Internal blockage
Dairy products; food allergies; stress; coccidia; camphobacter

Green diarrhea
Dark, tarry stool
Blood in stool
Fabric or odd objects in stool
Frequent, small stool
Protrusion from anus
Draining area near anus

Upset stomach; stress; ECE
Too many raisins; internal bleeding
Internal hemorrhage, cancer
Eating fabric or toys
Poor rectal muscles
Rectal prolapse
Anal gland impaction

**Reproductive
Organs**

Bleeding penis
Growth on penis
"Dragging" penis across things
Swollen vulva
Pus or discharge from vulva

Caught on something
Tumor
Territorial marking; adrenal disease
In heat; leftover ovarian tissue; adrenal disease
Infection; adrenal disease

Overall Body

Temperature over 103
Temperature under 95
Severe anemia

Fever
Hypothermia; serious illness
Lengthy heat cycle; internal tumor; severely enlarged spleen

Limp upon awakening
Comatose
Uncontrollable shivers/tremors
Convulsions
Wasting
Enlarged lymph nodes
Blood sugar level under 80

Baby sleep; low blood sugar; insulinoma
Insulinoma; stroke
Shock; poison
Insulinoma seizure; epilepsy; poison; shock
Cancer; age; internal blockage; internal parasite
Infection; cold/flu; lymphosarcoma
Anorexia; insulinoma

Behavior

Fainting
Lethargy
"Listing " to one side
Walking in circles
Excessive grooming
Biting when startled
Biting other ferrets
Hopping & leaping

Insulinoma
Anemia; low glucose; age; heart disease; illness
Ear infection; mites; stroke
Stroke
Stress; adrenal disease
Blind; deaf
Blind; dominance issues
PLAYING!

Selected sources:

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