

# Stuff to have on hand in case your ferret gets sick

Stuff to have on hand in case your ferret gets sick:

- \* Jar of chicken or turkey baby food
- \* Nutrical
- \* Glucose or Glucose replacement for diabetics (honey or Karo syrup in a pinch)
- \* Pedialyte (or generic version)
- \* Phone #s to regular vet, emergency vet, ferret people you can ask questions of
- \* Vaseline

A ferret does not show it is sick until it is really sick. Same thing with being in pain. So, act quickly! If a ferret is lethargic, there is something wrong. If a ferret is gnashing it's teeth, it is in pain. If a ferret is whimpering (not the sound they make when playing), it is in a lot of pain!

If your ferret isn't eating, it will sometimes eat chicken baby food. This at least has protein in it and will get some nutrition in the ferret.

If the ferret is suffering from low blood glucose (lethargic, drooling, unsteady on the feet), try feeding it some Nutrical, honey or Karo syrup. If you give a small amount of Nutrical occasionally, the ferret will be used to it and more likely to eat it when it is sick. If you can't get the ferret to eat anything, it is drooling, or if it is comatose, take a Q-tip and rub honey or Karo syrup on the gums. (Karo syrup will likely work faster.) Do this every few minutes until you can get the ferret to the vet.

Any time the ferret is sick, it is a good idea to give it Pedialyte. If the ferret has diarrhea, you really should give Pedialyte. This helps keep the ferret from getting dehydrated and provides it with electrolytes. (After opening, Pedialyte must be refrigerated and is only good for a number of days.)

Below is a link to an excellent article about feeding a sick ferret.

<http://www.afip.org/consultation/vetpath/ferrets/babyfood.html>