



# Ferret

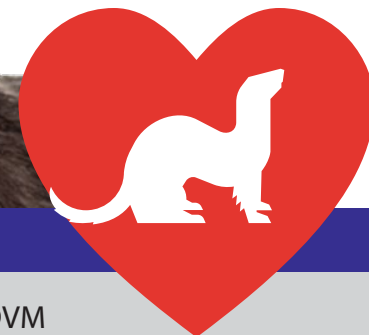
## DIETARY NEEDS



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Care guides, food charts, pet profiles, and more

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### DIET TYPES



**● Low-Quality Kibbles**

- Marshall
- Kaytee
- Zupreem
- Wild Harvest
- Higgins inTune
- Sunseed

**● High-Quality Kibbles**

- Wysong Epigen 90 with D.S.
- Oxbow Essentials Ferret
- Instinct Ultimate Protein

**● Quality Canned**

- RAWZ
- ZiwiPeak
- Koha

**● Air-Dried Raw**

- ZiwiPeak
- Catit
- Kiwi Kitchens

**● Frozen & Freeze-Dried Raw**

- Stella & Chewy's Dinner Morsels
- Nulo Freestyle
- Instinct Raw Signature

Complete food chart, transitioning tips, and more

[www.ferret.love](http://www.ferret.love)

## COMPARISON

	Up-Front Cost	Convenience	Flavor Variety	Improves Health	Improves Poop	Dental Health
 Cheap Kibbles	\$	√√				
 High-Quality Kibbles	\$\$	√√		√	√	
 Canned	\$\$	√	√	√√	√√	
 Air-Dried Raw	\$\$\$	√√	√	√√	√√	
 Freeze-Dried / Frozen Raw	\$\$\$		√	√√	√√	√
 Whole Prey	\$\$\$		√	√√	√√	√√

**Up-Front Cost:** What it will cost monthly to maintain needed dietary supply.

**Convenience:** How easy it is to obtain, store, and serve.

**Flavor Variety:** An extensive range of choices within the product line.

**Improves Health:** Reduces medical risks for diseases linked to inadequate diet.

**Improves Poop:** Produces firmer, less frequent stools with less odor.

**Improves Dental Health:** Reduces tartar and physical damage to teeth.

## MIXING DIETS

Supplement dry food with a spoonful of all-meat canned or raw food 2 to 3 times a week. These foods add variety and moisture to the diet.

Wet food reduces dental disease.

Ferrets on kibble-only diets will develop tartar and wear and tear on their teeth by the time they are 3 to 4 years old.

Giving a variety of types and flavors is also mentally stimulating and broadens the range of foods that can be fed.



*Where to find high-quality foods: Kriser's, Bentley's Pet Stuff, Pet Supplies Plus, and Chewy.com*

## IMPORTANT

Ferrets are obligate carnivores — they depend on the protein and fat from meat as their source of nutrition and energy. Their digestive tracts cannot extract nutrients from plant materials such as grains, starches, sugars, and plant proteins.

Grains and starches are common in kibbles due to how they are made and can increase the risk of developing a serious pancreatic cancer called insulinoma. Insulinoma causes abnormal increases in blood insulin, leading to dangerously low blood sugar, which leads to nausea, lethargy, and life-threatening seizures.

Plant proteins from peas and other legumes have been strongly linked to bladder stones in ferrets. These ingredients are cheap to manufacture and are used to pad the protein % of the food but are an inadequate source of protein for ferrets. They have also been linked to bladder stones which cause blood in the urine, painful urination, and require expensive surgical removal.

"Raw" does not mean just giving them grocery store meat. They need a correct balance of liver, heart, and bones in their diet. We recommend commercial raw diets for beginners - for homemade raw or whole prey diets, proper research and a mentor are required.

Transitioning your ferret's diet needs to be done gradually. Ferrets can be extremely picky; some will starve themselves rather than try new food.

