



## International Ferret Contest: Participation Rules

If you want to take part in the International Ferret Contest, please fill in the registration form available on the Petfestival's official website [www.petsfestival.eu](http://www.petsfestival.eu), and then send it to the following email address: [internationalferretcontest@petfestival.eu](mailto:internationalferretcontest@petfestival.eu).

**All forms must be received by September 30th, 2022.**

By registering for the contest, you fully accept the terms and conditions and you agree that all pictures, audio and videos taken during the event may be used on the event's websites and social media.

### Health regulations for contest admission

Please make sure to read and comply with the following rules:

- Ferrets must be 3+ months old and the owners need to show the vaccination booklet and/or passport upon arrival as proof.
- Ferrets with open wounds, sick or in bad health conditions will not be accepted into the contest.
- Hybrid ferrets (50% ferret and 50% other type of mustelid) will not be accepted into the contest. Hybrid ferrets of 4th generation (or subsequent) with a proving genealogy certificate can be enrolled in the contest
- Pregnant or lactating females aren't allowed in the area and won't be able to take part in the contest.
- Ferrets in heat can participate in the contest but only after the organization's approval. In any case, during the event, they must be kept under strict control by their owners. No mating is allowed during the event.
- To enter the venue and participate in the contest, ferrets must be in full health, free from pathologies or parasites that can be transmitted to other ferrets. If, in the past, the ferret contracted an infective disease like, for example, ECE, the owner must bring a veterinarian certificate attesting that the ferret has fully recovered by at least 1 year
- Ferrets' sale is strictly prohibited.

**Ferrets need to be vaccinated against distemper and, if coming from abroad, rabies**

#### **Distemper - vaccination protocol:**

Ferrets under 1 year of age must have the first vaccine plus a booster after 30 days; ferrets that are 1 year or older must have all the required annual boosters.

#### **Rabies – vaccination protocol (only for ferrets coming from abroad):**

Ferrets must have a sanitary passport attesting that they've been vaccinated against rabies at least 3 weeks prior to the day of the contest; owners must verify that the vaccinations against rabies and distemper are still valid.

**N.B. It is recommended to treat your ferrets against parasites (fleas and ear-mites) before the event takes place.**

Upon arrival, all ferrets will be medically checked at the entrance of the venue. If the veterinarian notices health problems or other issues, the ferret won't be able to participate in the contest. It will be up to the veterinarian's sole judgement to determine if the ferret needs to be taken immediately away from the venue or is allowed to stay, although kept in its cage for the entire time. **In this case, the registration fee for the contest will not be reimbursed.**

### **Health rules for non-contestant ferrets**

Ferrets that aren't taking part in the contest can access the venue after the veterinary check at the entrance. Having an up-to-date vaccination booklet is mandatory. These health rules apply to all animals entering the venue and not just to the ferrets enrolled in the contest.

In case the health rules are changed due to the current epidemiological situation, all contestants will be immediately informed.

**Decisions taken by the veterinarian and organizational team are indisputable.**

### **Contest steps & owners' responsibilities**

- Ferrets participating in the contest need to be brought to the ferret area at the indicated time in order to finalize the registration and be checked by the veterinarian. Each ferret will be assigned a number which will be later used to call the ferret up for the judgement.
- The owner must bring a cage or playpen where the ferrets can stay during the day. The size needs to be wide enough for them to be comfortable, have enough room to move around and also be safe. The owner must take care of food, water, and cleaning.
- Each owner must have a carrier (better if provided with a hammock and water bottle/bowl) that will be used to take the ferret at the judges' table when its number is called.
- It is strictly forbidden to approach the tables during the judging.
- Owners must keep watch on their ferrets during the entire day.
- The organization team will show owners how to display the cages/playpens in order to guarantee the ferrets' safety as the visitors walk by to look at them. It is preferable not to let the ferrets be touched by visitors. If you decide to let them be pet, hold or touched, any consequence that may occur will be your sole responsibility.
- Owners must never leave their ferrets without supervision and must also make sure that they don't bother other ferrets.
- **Each owner will be responsible for the health and care of their pets.** The organization team assumes no responsibility over ferrets' management during the event. By taking part in the event, owners declare that they know and accept the PetsFestival's 2022 Regulation on Animals' Display and Maintenance (*"Esposizione e Mantenimento Animali Petsfestival 2022"*).
- During the event, judges, veterinarians and the organization team will observe the **proper hygiene measures**, such as cleaning hands and surfaces with disinfectants. We encourage owners to do the same. If, after the event, ferrets showed signs of an infectious disease, the organization team will not be held accountable.

## Ferrets' judgement

Each ferret will be judged for its general aspect, level of hygiene and care. Ferrets need to be positively handled by the judges during the 3-5 minutes of evaluation. During this time, the judges will do their best to put the ferret at ease. Ferrets that show aggressive or nervous behaviour, or bite a judge, may be disqualified. The owners must make sure that their ferret is calm and relaxed before being taken at the judges' table. **Judges' decisions are undisputable.**

## Ferret categories

Ferrets will be divided into the following categories:

### Short-hair ferrets

- **Baby:** 3-6 months old ferrets divided by gender.
- **Teen:** 7-18 months old ferrets divided by gender
- **Junior:** 19 months-3 years old ferrets divided by gender
- **Adult:** 4-5 years old ferrets divided by gender
- **Senior:** 6+ years old ferrets with no gender distinction

### Angora ferrets

- **Baby:** 3-6 months old ferrets with no gender distinction
- **Teen & Junior:** 7 months – 3 years old ferrets with no gender distinction
- **Adult & Senior:** 4+ years old ferrets with no gender distinction

### Ferrets with disabilities

- **Imperferrets:** any disabled ferret, with no age or gender distinction

*All ferrets will be judged by the standards of their reproductive status, gender, colour and age in the most objective way possible.*

## Prizes

Besides the prizes for **1st, 2nd and 3rd places for each category**, the judges will award two "**Best in Show**" prizes to the ferrets with the highest scores in the categories "*Teen & Junior*" and "*Adult & Senior*". The "**Best Judge's Choice**" prize will be awarded arbitrarily by the judge regardless of the scores obtained.

If the ferrets registered in a category are not enough, they could be grouped into another category, as close as possible to their age and characteristics, otherwise they will be rewarded only if they obtain a score equal to at least 80% of the maximum achievable score.

In case of a tie, ferrets will be judged again to determine a winner.