



LegalizeFerrets.org

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March 9th, 2025

Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians (AEMV)

P.O. Box 1868

Mt. Juliet, TN 37121

Subject: Expert Support Needed for Ferret Reclassification Petition

Dear AEMV Board and Members,

I am writing on behalf of **LegalizeFerrets.org**, an organization dedicated to ensuring that domestic ferrets are recognized for what they are—long-domesticated companion animals, not wild or detrimental species.

We have submitted a **petition for regulatory change** to the California Fish and Game Commission challenging the state's classification of ferrets as wild and detrimental. This classification is outdated and unsupported by scientific evidence, yet the commission has consistently refused to acknowledge ferrets as domestic animals.

One of the primary obstacles we face is that **wildlife biologists—who are typically consulted on such matters—have little to no experience with domestic ferrets** because ferrets are not part of their field. We need **experts in exotic animal medicine, domestic animal classification, and ferret welfare** to provide professional statements affirming that:

1. **Ferrets (*Mustela putorius furo*) are domesticated animals**, distinct from their wild ancestors, much like dogs from wolves.
2. **Ferrets are not detrimental** to the environment in the way wild or invasive species might be. No evidence of feral populations exists in California or elsewhere in the U.S.

Your expertise in exotic mammal veterinary care gives you unique authority to **speak to the domestic nature of ferrets** and their role as household pets rather than wildlife. We are reaching out to ask if AEMV, or any of its members, would be willing to:

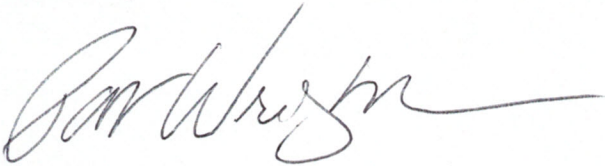
- Provide a **written statement or letter** confirming that domestic ferrets are neither wild nor detrimental.
- Offer **professional insights** that we can present to the commission as part of our legal argument.
- Help connect us with other professionals who may support this effort.

Enclosed are **mailing supporting exhibits** that include historical, legal, and veterinary evidence of ferret domestication. If you or any of your members would be interested in providing input or have questions about our petition, please feel free to reach out via email or phone.

Your support could be critical in ensuring that California's policies reflect **science and truth rather than outdated misconceptions**.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate any assistance you can provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Pat Wright', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Pat Wright

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