



LegalizeFerrets.org

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March 12, 2025

Dr. Peter Erickson, PhD, PAS, Dipl. ACAS

President, American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS)

CC: ARPAS Board of Directors

1800 S Oak St, Suite 100

Champaign, IL 61820-6974

Subject: Request for Expert Support in California Fish and Game Commission Petition Regarding Domestic Ferrets

Dear Dr. Erickson and Members of the ARPAS Board,

I am writing on behalf of **LegalizeFerrets.org**, an organization dedicated to securing the legal recognition of domestic ferrets (*Mustela putorius furo*) in California. We have filed a **petition with the California Fish and Game Commission (FGC)** requesting the removal of domestic ferrets from the state's list of restricted species.

To support our petition, we are seeking **expert statements from credentialed animal scientists, biologists, or wildlife professionals** to affirm the following key points:

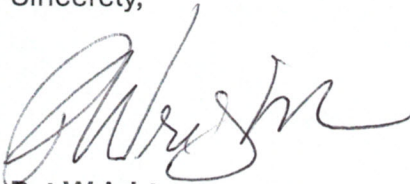
1. **Domestic ferrets are not wild animals** – They have been selectively bred for over 2,500 years and are genetically distinct from their wild ancestors. They lack the survival instincts necessary to establish feral populations.
2. **Ferrets do not pose a significant ecological threat** – Data from 48 other states where ferrets are legal shows no evidence of widespread ecological harm.
3. **Ferrets do not present a unique public health risk** – They have a long history as domesticated companion animals, and rabies vaccinations are available.

Given ARPAS's role in **promoting scientific accuracy in animal sciences**, we would greatly appreciate any guidance on how we might collaborate with ARPAS members or if you could facilitate access to experts willing to provide statements or testimony on this issue.

We understand the importance of objective, evidence-based decision-making in animal policy, and we believe that expert input from ARPAS members will be critical in ensuring that our petition is evaluated fairly.

We would be grateful for any assistance or recommendations you can provide and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Wright', with a stylized, cursive script.

Pat Wright

LegalizeFerrets.org