



LegalizeFerrets.org

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Smithsonian's National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute  
P.O. Box 37012 MRC 5516  
Washington, DC 20013

Subject: Expert Support Needed for Ferret Reclassification Petition

Dear Smithsonian National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute,

I am reaching out on behalf of LegalizeFerrets.org, an organization dedicated to correcting the misclassification of ferrets in California. We have submitted a petition to the California Fish and Game Commission seeking a regulatory change to remove ferrets from the state's list of "wild and detrimental" species.

Despite being domesticated for centuries, ferrets (*Mustela putorius furo*) are still classified as wild animals in California. This designation has persisted without scientific evidence, public hearings, or consultation with wildlife biologists or other relevant experts. In fact, the California Fish and Game Commission has never consulted wildlife biologists on the matter, nor have they produced any evidence to justify this classification.

Given the Smithsonian's expertise in animal conservation and biology, we are seeking your assistance in providing an expert statement confirming:

1. Ferrets (*Mustela putorius furo*) are fully domesticated animals, distinct from their wild ancestors, similar to how dogs and cats are distinct from wolves and wildcats.
2. Ferrets are not a wild or invasive species, as they lack the ability to establish feral populations in the U.S. or elsewhere.
3. Scientific consensus supports their domesticated status, and their continued classification as "wild" in California is inconsistent with historical and biological evidence.

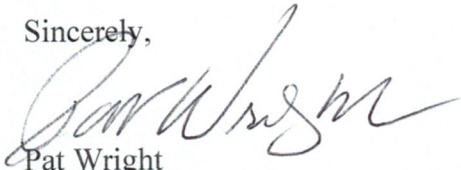
We would be grateful for any statement, letter, or professional insight your institution could provide, which we will submit as part of our petition to the Fish and Game Commission.

Enclosed is what we have officially submitted to the California Fish and Game Commission, the original petition and exhibits.



If you have any questions or need additional information, I would be happy to provide further details. Thank you for your time and consideration. Your support could play a crucial role in ensuring science-based policymaking on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Wright', written in a cursive style.

Pat Wright

[LegalizeFerrets.org](http://LegalizeFerrets.org)