



BLUE RIDGE FERRET RESCUE

Phone: (937)-478-1520 – Text Only

Email: blueridgeferretrescue@gmail.com

www.blueridgeferretrescue.org

BRFR Ferret Facts – How to Treat Fleas and Ticks

About:

Bathing your ferrets should not be a common occurrence, and actually very little to rarely. However, in an emergency where your ferret arrives with fleas or ticks, you may think to yourself on what options you have. Bathing your ferrets too often will strip their skin and coat of their natural oils and can dry out their skin, although in emergencies here are some options!

Oat Bath and Flea/Tick Treatment -

If you do need to bathe your ferret at any point of time, it is recommended to use luke-warm water and natural oats (not the instant or flavored). We like to fill our tub where ours can still walk, you do not want it to the point to where they are actually swimming. Once filled, grab an old sock and fill halfway with oats used for oatmeal. We use Quaker Quick-1-minute oats. Tie your sock tightly and toss into the tub to let the oats soak. We like to squeeze and massage the sock to get the oats to release the natural starch, etc. into the water. Your tub should start to become cloudy. We soak the sock for about 10 minutes and then add our ferrets. Let the ferrets soak in the oat water and use a flea comb and go through their entire body. Make sure to check behind the ears, armpits, leg pits, genital area, nose, mouth crevices, and feet. In instances where it is not a big infestation, you can also use tweezers while the ferret is scruffed and pick out the stubborn ones the comb can't get.

After bathing and you don't see any more moving, grab a clean towel and dry off the ferret. Once dried, we like to double check for any more before applying flea and tick medication. We use the specified Ferret Advantage II Flea and Tick Treatment. However, you may also use the Small Kitten/Cat treatment if you cannot locate the ferret one. Due to ferret's sensitive skin, bathing ferrets over and over again for higher flea infestations can cause damage to the ferret's skin and fur, cause irritation, rashes and dryness, itchiness, etc.

In the cases where they are too covered and in emergency state, their health is the priority. See second method below.

Small Animal or Kitten Flea and Tick Shampoo W/ Flea/Tick Treatment –

Yes, Flea and Tick Shampoo may seem too rough, however depending on the ferret's state, health and case of fleas or ticks, it is important to kill off the infestation as quickly as possible before they cause more damage to the ferret's skin and further more. In these EMERGENT cases, only use Flea and Tick Shampoo designated for Small Animals or Kittens, do not use ones for Dogs. Brands you may see these in are: VetsBest (Found in most pet stores/online) & Veterinary Formula (Found on Chewy). After treating with Shampoo, complete same steps as above, and treat with Ferret or Kitten Flea and Tick Treatment. With this shampoo technique, it is important to replenish the oils in the ferret's skin, with this, use Salmon/Fish oil. Brand we like to use is American Journey, but you may use your preferred Brand. We give our ferrets a week of the salmon oil on top/mixed with their food for about a week to replenish everything. If you are still seeing fleas and ticks after Shampoo and the treatment, please refer to a Veterinary Office!