



FERRET

(Mustela putorius furo)

ANIMAL FACTS

WILD LOCALITY:

This species has been domesticated for ~ 2,500 years, but was originally derived from the wild European Polecat

HABITAT:

(European Polecat) Forests & Marshes of Eurasia & North Africa

LIFESTYLE:

Terrestrial & Subterrestrial (ground-dwelling & in dens or tunnels underground)

DIET:

Small Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, & Eggs (obligate carnivore)

LIFE EXPECTANCY:

7-12 years in the care of humans (less for the European Polecat in the wild)

ADULT SIZE:

0.5-2.5kg (males are larger than females)

ACTIVITY:

Crepuscular (most active at dawn & dusk)

CONSERVATION STATUS:

(European Polecat) Least Concern & decreasing

THREATS:

Habitat Loss & Hunting

FUN FACTS:

This species of ferret has been domesticated for about 2,500 years, & was originally brought into the care of humans for the purpose of hunting animals such as rodents & rabbits. Ferrets are amazing capable hunters, & must eat multiple times per day to stay healthy. They are obligate carnivores & should consume meat & only meat. There are many incredible animals who are related to ferrets. Their close cousins include other mustelids such as otters, badgers, weasels & wolverines!