

What if Fish & Game Knocks on Your Door?

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

By The California Domestic Ferret Association

Due to the constant threat of confiscation and euthanasia, and the impediments to proper veterinary care caused by its "illegal" status, the California Domestic Ferret Association (CDFA) does not encourage ownership or possession of this pet in California. However, we do recognize that there are an estimated 500,000 ferrets residing in California, and for that reason we want to provide the following helpful information. This information is based on the *California Department of Fish and Game's Civil Code book, section 671.3*.

When a Fish and Game warden or a police officer knocks on your door, you **DO NOT** have to allow them entry without a properly signed search warrant. This search warrant must show "probable cause" (for example, if your neighbor reported you, his name must appear on the search warrant).

If they have a search warrant that meets the above criteria, and they find domestic ferrets on your property or in your home, you have the right to make decisions regarding your pet's safe transport out-of-state:

1. At your expense, you may choose to have the animals shipped to a permanent adoptive home of your choice, in one of the 48 states that permit ferret ownership.
2. You may choose, at your expense, to have them sent to an adoptive center in a "legal state," set up by CDFA. Please be advised that your pet(s) will be placed in a carefully selected permanent adoptive home(s).
3. You may relinquish the ferret(s) to CDFA for transport to the adoption center of our choosing at our expense.
4. You may elect to have the confiscating officer handle the situation at his or her discretion. There is, however, no guarantee that your pet(s) will not be destroyed.

**Regardless of your choice,
contact CDFA immediately at:**

(530) 873-4720

**If busy or there is no answer,
use our emergency pager:**

(510) 702-3105

A Note from Ferrets Anonymous:

CDFA is the only organization in the state that Fish and Game has issued a permit to, that can save your pets' lives at the border crossing and shelters. Please make note of the phone numbers and hope you never have to use them. Often ferrets are picked up on an unauthorized walk and no one claims them. Usually the ferret is just in the wrong place at the wrong time. The police may be at the house on another matter and the animal is seen. Maybe you just broke up with a girlfriend or a boyfriend, have roommate problems, marital problems, or neighbors who use the animal to get at you.