

FINDING FURTHER  
INFORMATION ON ADV

**Web Sites**

www.ferret.org/aleutian.htn  
www.ferretcentral.org  
animalsforawareness.org/aleutian.htm  
www.geocities.com/russiansmom

**News Groups**

Advferret@yahoogroups.com  
Smartgroups.com/groups/ferrethealth

**Reference Papers by:**

Dr. Richard Nye  
Dr. M.A. Stevenson  
Dr. M.E. Bloom

**ADV Testing Supplies**

Avecon Diagnostics, Inc.  
Telephone 800.249.5875  
[www.avecon.com](http://www.avecon.com)

United Vaccines, Inc.  
Telephone 800.283.6465



This is Pudge. She is a happy, healthy, ADV+ ferret. So pretty they made her into a stamp!

  
**A Non-Profit  
Organization**

*If you have an ADV+ household, and  
you are interested in possibly adopting,  
fostering, or sponsoring an ADV+  
shelter ferret, please contact us today!*

**Local Contact:**



**Metropolitan NY/  
NJ Ferret Welfare  
Society, Inc.**

33 Arrowhead Drive  
Neshanic Station NJ 08853  
Web: <http://www.metroferret.com>  
E-mail : [admin@metroferret.com](mailto:admin@metroferret.com)  
Federal 501©(3) Not-for-Profit Organization  
Federal EIN 22-3684207  
NJ Charities Registration: CH-1582700  
NJ Tax Exempt ID 223-684-207/000  
NY Charities Registration 20-21-82  
NY Tax Exempt ID EX230833

*This brochure is provided in an effort to increase the awareness of  
ADV, and is only a general overview. The document can be freely  
distributed in it's original form, with your contact information added  
in the space provided above. No other alterations are permitted.*

  
**HELPING TO  
CONTROL THE  
SPREAD OF  
ALEUTIAN'S  
DISEASE VIRUS**

General Awareness information on ADV  
Provided by:

**Metropolitan NY/  
NJ Ferret Welfare  
Society, Inc.**



**Metro Ferret**  
[www.metroferret.com](http://www.metroferret.com)

## STOPPING THE SPREAD OF ALEUTIAN'S DISEASE VIRUS (ADV)

### How can I keep my ferrets safe if they are ADV Negative?

Basically, you need to imagine that all other ferrets and all surfaces have been exposed to ADV. Take the necessary steps to prevent your ferrets from coming in contact with the virus. Do not allow others to handle your ferrets without proper precautions. Do not allow other unknown ferrets to interact with yours if they have not been tested. If you purchase hand-made ferret bedding, be sure to wash the items with bleach, soap and hot water before using them.

If your ferrets are attending a show, bring them in a carrier with a cover. Do not permit stray fingers poking into the cage. If ferrets are attending a show, or are going to the pet store, do not let them walk on the floor, which may be contaminated. If you use a vaccination clinic, observe the sanitary techniques. Is a parvocide spray being used between vaccinations? Is the vet changing gloves or sanitizing between examinations? Is the vet using a disposable apron, and changing between patients? Know what's going on.

If you bring a new ferret into your home, be sure that you quarantine and ADV test that ferret before you introduce him to the rest of your ferrets. If you are bringing home a baby ferret, quarantine and test it at 12-14 weeks, and then re-test it at 6 months. It's also a good idea to have the stool tested for coccidia on a new ferret, as well. No one wants to get that, either!

### How can I help to prevent the spread of the disease?

If one or more of your ferrets has tested positive for ADV, they should all be considered positive. Separating the ferrets will have no benefit, as the others have already been exposed. We recommend that you treat exposed ferrets as positive as well. Consideration here should be for other ferrets and the ferret community. You know what is to come for your ferrets, and you need to give them all of the love and attention that they need, while being sure other ferrets are safe. In addition to following the sanitary techniques below, do not allow your ferrets to interact with other negative ferrets, besides your own that have already been exposed. If you are visiting another ferret household, or going to a ferret event, shower and wash thoroughly, change clothes, and don't forget those shoes! Shoes can

carry the virus, and should be disinfected or changed before going out.. Clearly, all items used for ADV + ferrets should be kept clean, but should be restricted to use with your ferrets. Do not donate any used items to shelters or give them to other ferret owners. Try to keep your ferrets at home. If your ferrets must go out, bring sanitizer, parvocide spray, and a carrier cover with you. Do not let others handle your ferrets. Let all who come in contact with your animals know their ADV status.

There is a very active ADV+ Ferret community in our area. Many owners are afraid to come forward, but we are everywhere. An ADV+ Ferret is just as good as any other ferret, and deserves the same consideration. If you want another ferret, or are willing to open your home to an ADV+ shelter ferret, there are more than plenty of exposed negatives, asymptomatic positives, and advanced positives out there that are waiting for a special home. If your home is positive, you are not alone.

### A Sanitary approach: What you should know:

A 10% Bleach solution is one of the recommendations for disinfection of objects (floors, cages, etc.). Some question the effectiveness of bleach, and higher concentrations can be used. Use bleach when washing bedding and litter boxes, bottles and bowls. You can follow up with a bit of parvocide, but make sure you rinse thoroughly, especially the bottles and bowls! When scrubbing out cages or carriers, use bleach and hot water first. Let this sit for at least 10 minutes. The cage can then be sprayed with Parvocide, and allowed to sit for 10 minutes more. Scrub the cage with antibacterial soap, rinse well, and allow to dry. Typical hand sanitizers and liquid antibacterial soap will not kill ADV. You can put a few drops of parvocide into the hand sanitizer or the soap container, and mix well. The added benefit of the parvocide will help kill the ADV. A note on Parvocide: This can be purchased from Veterinary supplies shops on the Internet. You need to purchase one that kills Canine Parvo-Virus. Also recommended, but more expensive, is Roccal-D. Purchase of a gallon of parvocide will go a long, long way, as only an ounce makes a gallon of solution. It is well worth the cost in the long run. Parvocide is not proven to be affective on porous surfaces such as material, however. There's no harm in trying, though. It's perfectly OK to use some in your laundry, anyway.

### What should my Vet know?

First and foremost, if your ferret is ADV Positive, you should let your vet know right away. Ask them to research and learn about ADV, as they will be treating your ferrets as the disease progresses. ADV Testing should not be performed for at least 6-8 weeks after vaccinations. False positives may result. We recommend testing for ADV prior to the annual vaccinations. At a cost of only \$15.00 per test, there is no reason why an ADV test cannot be part of the fer-

ret's annual exam. Your vet should also be aware that vaccinating an ADV+ ferret may cause an exacerbation of the illness. There is some disagreement on this, though, so you should talk to your vet about it before hand. Suggest that your vet review the ADV information from Dr. MA Stevenson, Dr. Richard Nye, Dr. Bruce Williams, and many other references, such as the Fox Manual, and other veterinary reference books.

### What Research is being done on ADV?

There is no known cure for ADV at this time. The present goal of research is to help develop a vaccination against ADV. Preventative treatment would be very welcome in the ferret community! The University of Georgia is currently conducting research on ADV. They accept tissue samples, blood, feces and urine from ADV + ferrets. Instructions for sending samples are available on line, at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/advferret/>. The American Ferret Association maintains the Pamela Slack D.V.M. Memorial Ferret Medical Research Fund. Dr. Bruce Williams, who runs the Ferret Health List, is also conducting independent studies. His web site is <http://www.afip.org/ferrets/>. United Vaccines and Avencon Diagnostics, makers of ADV testing kits, also conduct on-going research to improve the quality of their tests.

### What else can I do to help the ADV+ Ferret Community?

There is so much that everyone can do to help! First, help us to control the spread of the disease by practicing safe ferret ownership. Second, help us spread the word about ADV, to help educate the general public. Metro Ferret has undertaken an education program, and we need volunteers for Pet Store Days, Seminars, and Shows. We also need volunteers to distribute literature to vets and to the public. Donations to help cover the cost of printing the information would be greatly appreciated. Please visit our web site today! Third, help with ADV research by making a donation to the cause. Consider donating for research, or to Metro Ferret for ADV Education, or to the University of Georgia's Research Fund. Finally, there are so many ADV+ shelter ferrets out there in need of medical care. Make a donation today to help sponsor one or more of those ferrets. If you are an ADV+ household, consider visiting an ADV+ shelter, learning from them, and maybe fostering or adopting one of the beautiful ferrets they have. In conclusion, we hope you find this information useful, and we hope that we can count on you to help in our efforts to control this terrible disease. Many thanks to you for helping!