

## Linda Iroff Bids Farewell To The International Ferret Congress

**Retirement from the International Ferret Congress approaches for Linda Iroff, co-director and treasurer.**

*By Marylou Zarbock*

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Meet Linda Iroff

Find out what fellow IFC members say about working with Iroff. [Click Here>>](#)

Memories Of The IFC

Iroff learned a lot through her experiences at the IFC. She now knows every nitty-gritty detail required to plan large events, and she's also built many relationships. She said one of the most enjoyable aspects of her IFC work was building relationships with many ferret product manufacturers and retailers. Someone else must now take on these tasks.

During her years at the IFC, Iroff was involved in many projects besides organizing the symposiums. Some of her proudest accomplishments include working with big companies to improve the ferret treats they carry, bringing together the domestic ferret community with the black-footed ferret community, and providing opportunities to meet people and help people.

Did Iroff know what she was getting into when she helped form the IFC? Not really. She said she just wanted to do it again after Toronto. "I didn't know we'd do it again and again and again. I don't really know what I thought it would be," she said. "We've been successful at what we've done." She said the fact that people are now fighting to get the IFC to hold the symposium near them is a measure of its success.

The IFC has been able to donate to ferret medical research and other ferret organizations. It has also spawned new organizations, such as F.E.R.R.E.T. Iroff expects this to continue. She also expects the IFC to continue to hold symposiums and bring people together. A future goal is to work with other animal organizations to improve ferret welfare.

Choosing A Favorite

Does Iroff have a favorite symposium? Yes, and it happens to be this last one in Pittsburgh. She credits this to a lower stress level, in part because the hotel staff was wonderful and made sure things flowed smoothly, which was one less burden for Iroff. She also believes knowing that it was her last symposium relieved some stress. "I could enjoy it more."

And there was a lot to enjoy. Iroff said that a lot of warm emotional things happened at this symposium, citing the engagement of April and Travis; the presentation honoring the founders of Totally Ferret, Tom and Patricia Willard, who are retiring at the end of this year; donations made by Jeanne Carley to Support Our Shelters and by Ferret Depot to the IFC; and much more. Iroff is happy. "I can go out on a high note with a big success."

A Bittersweet Goodbye

As Iroff moves forward in her life, she won't forget those she worked with at the IFC. "They've been a wonderful group of people to work with, and I'll miss them."

When asked what she planned to do with the free time she'll soon have, Iroff laughed. "I have lots of things to do with my free time. Things that couldn't get done before."