

Are Ferrets Better Pets Than Guinea Pigs?

Which is the pet to get, a ferret or a guinea pig?

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Q: We have had guinea pigs and would like to try a new small animal pet. We have considered a ferret, but know nothing about them. Are ferrets any more social than guinea pigs?

A: While ferrets are certainly more social than guinea pigs, I wouldn't say they are better pets. Each type of pet has good and bad points.

Ferrets require a large cage, time each day for out-of-cage play, food that is more expensive than a rodent's, expensive veterinary visits with an exotic veterinarian for vaccinations and health issues, and lots of enrichment to keep them stimulated. Ferrets can also be quite messy with regard to elimination habits, so they require a dedicated cleanup time.

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