

How Well Do You Ferret-Proof?

Take this quiz to find out how well you ferret-proof your home.

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If this happens in your home, this quiz is for you!

Quiz Tip: Print out this page before you take the quiz and use it to record your answers for each question.

I was never terribly good at higher mathematics, although I find them very interesting from a layman's perspective. The hardest discipline that I ever tried my hand at was unquestionably statistics. After I completed my college Intro To Statistics class, I immediately sold my textbook back to the school store for resale. I knew I would never open that book again; just lifting the cover gave me a headache.

The class did change how I observe the world around me, though. Over the years I have noticed an immutable statistical law. The more that you don't want a ferret to go somewhere or do something, the greater the chance that the ferret will indeed go there and do that!

Ferret-proofing the home thus becomes an endless challenge. Some people meet it with grim determination, others with a self-deprecating "Oh, they beat me again!" Here is a simple self-diagnostic to help you to determine how you rate as a ferret-proofer.

Ferret-Proof Question 1: You install a brand new cat flap so that you don't have to listen to the daily dawn feline opera, your cat's "Let Me Out" song. Who uses it the most?

- a) The cat, silly!
- b) That skunk that used to eat from your trash can outside in the night. He looks beautiful scampering around on the Persian carpet in your living room.
- c) The ferrets, which all learned how to go in and out through it in about three minutes flat. Mostly out.
- d) All of the above!

Answer: _____ Points: _____

Ferret-Proof Question 2: You come home and it is quiet. Very quiet. Too quiet. What's going on?

- a) This is not really your home. Go back outside and check. Mistakes happen.
- b) Your ferrets have done something absolutely horrible and they are in hiding, little teeth chattering, waiting for you to discover what they have done.
- c) Your ferrets might just be dead to the world asleep somewhere, but assume that they are in terrible peril and search for them.
- d) Your ferrets are playing with your mind, making you think that they have escaped. They are watching from their hidey-holes, waiting for you to freak out so they can dook to one another in mirth. Just ignore the silence. Don't give them the satisfaction.

Answer: _____ Points: _____

Ferret-Proof Question 3: Fill in the blank. Houseplants are _____.

- a) Possibly designed by the devil to make hapless ferret owners sweep up bits of shredded greenery and potting soil again, and again and again. And again. Did I say the again part?
- b) Sometimes poisonous to ferrets, so do research on the plants before you buy.
- c) Ferret magnets. Most ferrets can no more ignore a houseplant than my husband can drive by a broken tractor without wanting to buy it and keep it rusting in the back yard until the end of time.
- d) All of the above.

Answer: _____ Points: _____

Ferret-Proof Question 4: You walk into the bathroom and you find the wastebasket on its side, empty. Everything you put in

it is now strewn across the floor. You _____.

- a) Hope that everything is strewn across that floor. Sometimes ferrets stash what they find in wastebaskets and bring it out at inopportune times — like when your in-laws come over for dinner. Eewww!
- b) Hope the basket didn't contain anything dangerous for a ferret to play with or eat, because it's not in that wastebasket anymore.
- c) Feel as if a little light bulb has gone on over your head when I suggest that the bottom of a small wastebasket is a great place for two or three bricks. Your plastic liner will fit over them just fine, and you won't have this tipping over problem again and again. Did I mention again? And again?
- d) All of the above.

Answer: _____ Points: _____

Ferret-Proof Question 5: Fill in the blank. Small children and ferrets _____.

- a) Can safely be left unsupervised.
- b) Should never be left unsupervised.

Answer: _____ Points: _____

Ferret-Proof Question 6: Ferrets can and will get beneath household appliances with only an inch of clearance beneath them.

- True
- False

Answer: _____ Points: _____

Ferret-Proof Question 7: Ferrets are all too often injured or killed inside of reclining chairs.

- True
- False

Answer: _____ Points: _____

Ferret-Proof Question 8: Ferrets have no interest in electrical wiring.

- True
- False

Answer: _____ Points: _____

Ferret-Proof Question 9: Ferrets can completely destroy sofas from the inside.

- True
- False

Answer: _____ Points: _____

Ferret-Proof Question 10: Ferrets are poor jumpers.

- True
- False

Answer: _____ Points: _____

Ferret-Proof Question 11: Ferrets can often be squeaky-toy trained to come to you.

- True
- False

Answer: _____ Points: _____

Ferret-Proof Question 12: Ferrets are too smart to eat things that they can't digest.

- True
- False

Answer: _____ Points: _____

Ferret-Proof Question 13: Ferrets sometimes sneak into washers or dryers and go for a ride.

True
False

Answer: _____ Points: _____

Ferret-Proof Question 14: Ferrets can be poisoned by common over-the-counter medications for humans.

True
False

Answer: _____ Points: _____

Ferret-Proof Question 15: Ferrets sometimes drown in toilet bowls.

True
False

Answer: _____ Points: _____

[Click here to check answers >>](#)

Alexandra Sargent-Colburn lives in Massachusetts with fish, ferrets, a cat, a husband and a neurotic dog. The ferrets are in charge.