

Excerpts Relating to Ferrets — California Fish and Game Commission Meeting, February 9, 2023

This excerpt reproduces the portions of the official California Fish and Game Commission meeting transcript that address ferrets and their legal status under California regulations. During public comment, speakers argued that domestic ferrets are scientifically recognized as a domestic species, citing archaeological and FDA evidence of domestication over 2,500 years ago. The testimony referenced California Civil Code §655, which defines domestic animals as property, and questioned why this statutory right has been ignored by state wildlife authorities. Speakers urged the Commission to reconsider the blanket classification of ferrets as “wild animals” under Title 14 §671 and to recognize the inconsistency between statutory property rights and regulatory prohibitions.

Transcript Excerpt (Pages 22–23)

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which has been defined loosely as any animal,

262

00:15:42.290 ■■■> 00:15:45.170

which is not normally domesticated as determined by the Fish and Gang

263

00:15:45.170 ■■■> 00:15:48.170

Commission. Um, can you click the next slide, please?

264

00:15:50.030 ■■■> 00:15:50.770

And, um,

265

00:15:50.770 ■■■> 00:15:55.330

but science says that they're domestic and I really challenge anyone to say

266

00:15:55.330 ■■■> 00:15:59.770

otherwise. The proof is that they are, they are a domestic animal. Next slide,

267

00:15:59.770 ■■■> 00:16:00.603

please.

268

00:16:04.330 ■■■> 00:16:08.420

Okay. And, and, and if you google this issue at all, you'll find a lot of, um,

269

00:16:09.150 ■■■> 00:16:13.660

of scientific studies. Let's say ferrets are domestic and,
270

00:16:13.660 ■■■> 00:16:18.100
and the domestication is, is is a process. And domestic ferrets,
271

00:16:18.100 ■■■> 00:16:22.940
even the name Meet it. Next slide, please. Um, you know,
272

00:16:22.940 ■■■> 00:16:27.740
even the F D A determines the label as domestic saying they were
273

00:16:27.900 ■■■> 00:16:30.980
domesticated 2,500 years ago. Next slide, please.

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274
00:16:32.920 ■■■> 00:16:34.420

And here's the hard part.

275
00:16:34.420 ■■■> 00:16:38.820

This California civil code says that there may be ownership of all,
276

00:16:39.310 ■■■> 00:16:42.860
uh, yada, yada, yada, including domestic animals.

277
00:16:42.880 ■■■> 00:16:47.140
And what we don't understand is why this law has been

278

00:16:47.350 ■■■> 00:16:51.100
ignored and being under property rights, uh,

279
00:16:51.220 ■■■> 00:16:53.140

doing the blanket outlaw in ferrets,
280

00:16:53.140 ■■■> 00:16:57.300
in declaring them wild animals violates our rights. We have the next slide,

281
00:16:57.300 ■■■> 00:17:00.300

please. Uh, you know, and,
282

00:17:00.360 ■■■> 00:17:04.900
and President Star told me years ago that we had to do sequel because the

283
00:17:04.920 ■■■> 00:17:09.780

environmentalists would sue, uh, sue them. And the real reason,
284

00:17:09.990 ■■■> 00:17:12.460

uh, carrots are illegal is because of the, uh,
285

00:17:12.460 ■■■> 00:17:17.380

political pressure from the Sierra Club. Now, this is a, um, a third hand quote.
286

00:17:17.430 ■■■> 00:17:18.900

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So take it with a grain of salt.

287

00:17:19.400 ■■■> 00:17:23.820

But the underlying figure is that they are against ownership. And Peter,
288

00:17:23.860 ■■■> 00:17:27.340

which heavily influences the Humane Society, uh,
289

00:17:27.340 ■■■> 00:17:30.940

declares pet ownership and all slavery and wishes to avoid the, uh,
290

00:17:30.940 ■■■> 00:17:35.060

wishes to discourage the concept of pet ownership. Next slide, please.
291

00:17:36.390 ■■■> 00:17:40.140

Um, but we've done the reports, uh, misconceptions.
292

00:17:40.580 ■■■> 00:17:45.580

Ferrets have never established it in the wild in the US and never been
293

00:17:45.780 ■■■> 00:17:48.860

able to do this. Um, next slide, please.
294

00:17:50.800 ■■■> 00:17:53.790

So, we are asking the Fish and Game Commission. You know,
295

00:17:53.790 ■■■> 00:17:57.790

you're here to protect our rights, not to thwart them.
296

00:17:58.440 ■■■> 00:18:01.470

So I know we've brought this issue up to you many times before,
297

00:18:01.470 ■■■> 00:18:05.430

but I think doing the right thing is, to be honest, I mean, uh,
298

00:18:05.900 ■■> 00:18:09.230

bumblebees are not fish and domestic barracks are not wild.