



Dear Legislator,

Re: Petition 2025-003 – Request for Your Support

California’s ferret prohibition has persisted for more than ninety years without any review. The rule was created in 1933, re-worded in 1975, and simply carried forward—never the evidence-based process the Legislature now requires for all regulations.

Petition 2025-003, now before the Fish and Game Commission, asks the Commission to apply the **Administrative Procedure Act (APA)**—to review the regulation openly, rely on data, and allow public comment. This is not about changing policy by fiat; it is about ensuring that our regulatory agencies follow the same fair standards of evidence and transparency that the Legislature intended.

Through the **California Public Records Act**, we obtained the state’s complete record of ferret-related policies. The findings show no modern determination, no scientific review, and no completed environmental report—only inherited language repeated for decades.

The enclosed four-page summary, California’s Ferret Ban: Inherited in 1933 — Never Determined, outlines that history and explains why this procedural correction is long overdue.

We are respectfully asking legislators to send a brief **letter of support**—on official letterhead—to the **Fish and Game Commission** and the **Office of Administrative Law**, urging them to evaluate Petition 2025-003 under the Administrative Procedure Act. A sample letter is enclosed for convenience.

Your encouragement can help ensure that California’s wildlife regulations reflect science, public participation, and good governance—not assumptions from 1933.

With appreciation for your time and your commitment to fairness in state policy,

Pat Wright
LegalizeFerrets.org

The Timeline of a Circular Ban



1933 “Ferret and Fitch absolutely prohibited.”

The California Fish and Game Commission and Department of Agriculture adopted rules prohibiting importation of “*ferret and fitch.*” No hearings, no science — just a sentence in a rulebook.

1957–1975

The term “*not normally domesticated*” enters the code, making the ban self-justifying. No determination of ferrets’ actual domestic status was ever made.

1980s–1990s

Citizens begin petitioning for review. The Commission repeatedly promises environmental review but never completes one. Ferret ownership continues underground.

1995–2004

Legislative efforts (AB 2497, SB 55, SB 89) all defer to the Commission. Governors and Attorneys General say legalization requires a formal study — but none is ever done.

2009–2010

The Commission acknowledges that before any change, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) would need to conclude “*no significant adverse impact.*” No such study has ever been completed.

2025

Petition 2025-003 formally asks the Commission to conduct that long-promised review — under the same Administrative Procedures Act that governs all other regulatory decisions.

For 90 years, California’s ferret ban has never been examined by science or subject to public comment.

What the Public Records Reveal

Through the **California Public Records Act**, LegalizeFerrets.org obtained internal files and historical archives covering every policy since 1933.

Eight months of research yielded a striking conclusion: **there is no evidence that ferrets were ever found feral, dangerous, or detrimental.**



Key Findings

- **No biological data:** No studies, surveys, or sightings of wild ferrets in California.
- **No environmental reports:** The 1995 EIR ordered by the Commission was never completed.
- **No public process:** The 1933 rule and all subsequent re-codifications occurred without hearings or scientific review.
- **Circular language:** “Not normally domesticated in this state” is used both as a definition and a justification.
- **No harm found in 48 other states,** where ferrets are legal, vaccinated, and licensed as companion animals.

The historical record shows bureaucracy repeating itself — not evidence guiding policy.



What Petition 2025-003 Requests

Our Request

- 1 Apply the Administrative Procedure Act (APA)**
 - Conduct an open, evidence-based review.
 - Solicit public and scientific comment.
 - Base any continued prohibition on measurable data.
- 2 Use existing standards for domestication**
 - Ferrets have been bred as companion animals for hundreds of years.
 - California's own Civil Code (§655) defines domestic animals as those "devoted to the service or use of man."
- 3 Recognize established precedent**
 - Every other U.S. state recognizes domestic ferrets.
 - Federal regulations (USDA, CDC) treat them as domestic carnivores alongside cats and dogs.

The question isn't whether ferrets should be legal — it's whether government agencies should follow their own rules for evidence and procedure.

Why Legislative Support Matters

Although the Fish and Game Commission must act under the APA, the Legislature provides oversight. Lawmakers have a duty to ensure that executive agencies base decisions on facts, not inertia.

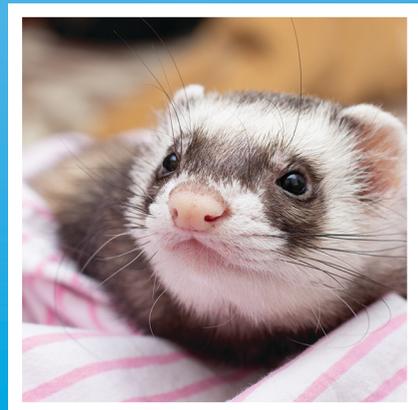
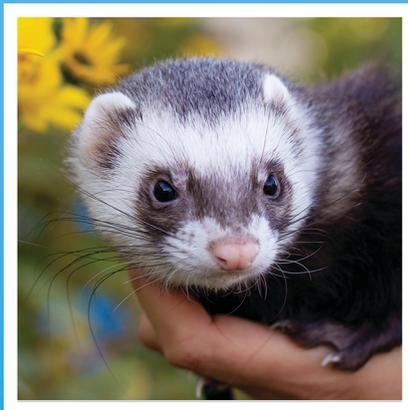
How Legislators Can Help

- Review this packet and the attached record summary.
- Sign or adapt the **sample letter of support** provided.
- Address the letter to both the **California Fish and Game Commission** and the **Office of Administrative Law**, urging them to review Petition 2025-003 on its merits.

Why It Matters

- This is a test of **good governance**, not a debate about pets.
- Californians deserve to know that wildlife rules are scientifically grounded.
- Updating outdated regulations builds public trust and modernizes the state's regulatory framework.

For 90 years, “just because” has been the only explanation.
Now it's time for “because we know.”



LegalizeFerrets.org

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