



Rhode Island Domestic Ferret Possession Information Sheet



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Why do I need a ferret permit?

Under Rhode Island General Law (RIGL) 20-16-3, a permit is required to own, possess or import a domestic (European) ferret into, or within, Rhode Island for either the purpose of keeping it as a pet, or with the intention of distribution.

How do I get a ferret permit?

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) Ferret Possession permit application is available from the RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) office at: 277 Great Neck Road, West Kingston, RI 02892.

It can be picked up in person, or it can be mailed out by contacting the office at (401) 789-0281, or by emailing DEM.DFW@dem.ri.gov. The application is not currently available online or in digital format.

Once completed, it should be returned to the RIDEM/Division of Fish and Wildlife office at the address above. *The Personal Ferret Possession permit must be obtained within a two-week time period, starting with the first day of possession of the animal.*

The application requires the applicant's name, home address, and telephone number, as well as the name, address and telephone number of the place of purchase or origin. Do not separate the application forms – submit the complete packet with the documents detailed below.

Which documents will I need to provide?

A veterinary certificate of a current rabies vaccination as required for ferrets three months or older in accordance with the Rules and Regulations Governing the Prevention, Control and Suppression of Rabies within the State of Rhode Island, 250-RICR-40-05-2. The vaccination must be administered by a veterinarian, licensed in the state of origin (photocopies accepted).

- A veterinary certificate as proof of neuter or spay (photocopies accepted).
- A veterinary certificate of a current rabies vaccination as required for ferrets three months or older in accordance with the Rules and Regulations Governing the Prevention, Control and Suppression of Rabies within the State of Rhode Island, 250-RICR-40-05-2. The vaccination must be administered by a veterinarian license in the state of origin (photocopies accepted).
- A check or money order made payable to RIDEM/ Div. of Fish and Wildlife must be submitted with the application. The cost for the permit is \$10 per ferret. No cash or credit card payments are currently able to be accepted.



What are the conditions of the Personal Ferret Possession Permit?

1. The ferret must always be kept under control and is not permitted outside unless kept on a leash with a harness, or when caged
2. The breeding of ferrets is not legal in Rhode Island
3. No person shall use a ferret for hunting game of any kind.

How do I submit a Dealer's Ferret Possession Permit?

The Dealer's Ferret Possession permit application must be submitted with all the documents needed for the Personal Ferret Possession permit, as well as a USDA certificate of Animal Health in accordance with R.I. General Law, Chapter 4-13-29. This application requires the date received, the name, address and telephone number of the ferret's place of origin, as well as the name, address and telephone number of the ferret dealer.

When can I expect to receive my permit?

Once submitted with all the required paperwork, the application will take up to two (2) weeks to be processed, and if approved, a permit will be signed, dated, and returned to the applicant. If the application is missing some of the required documentation, the Division may attempt to contact the applicant for the additional paperwork, however, incomplete applications may be returned to the applicant. It is the responsibility of the applicant to include all the required information and documentation with their Ferret Possession Application.

Who can I contact about my permit?

For more information, please contact the RIDEM Division of Fish & Wildlife at DEM.DFW@dem.ri.gov or by calling 401-789-0281.

More information about ferret regulations:

250-RICR-60-00-6 Title 250 Department of Environmental Management, Chapter 60 Fish & Wildlife, Part 6 – Rhode Island Ferret Regulations: <https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/part/250-60-00-6>.