

Exciting Changes for 2025 in AFA-Sanctioned Ferret Shows!

The American Ferret Association (AFA) is thrilled to announce significant updates to our policies, designed to make ferret shows more accessible, educational, and enjoyable for all participants!

No More Aleutian Disease Testing

Starting January 2025, AFA will no longer require Aleutian Disease Virus (ADV) testing for participation in AFA-sanctioned ferret shows. We believe this change will encourage broader participation while continuing to promote responsible ferret ownership and education for both new and seasoned enthusiasts.

New Vaccination Waiver Procedure

Beginning with the **2025 Spring Nationals in March**, AFA will implement a new vaccination waiver process to ensure the health and safety of all ferrets at our events.

All exhibitors and attendees bringing ferrets to AFA-sanctioned shows must:

- **Complete and sign a waiver** affirming that:
 - All ferrets in their care are healthy and free of visible illness (e.g., runny nose, sneezing, coughing).
 - No ferrets in their household have been exposed to communicable diseases (such as Aleutian Disease (ADV), Canine Distemper Virus (CDV), Rabies, etc.) in the past four months.
 - All ferrets are up-to-date on required vaccinations, including:
 - **CDV:** PureVax, NeoVac FD, NOBIVAC® or Puppy DPv
 - **Rabies:** IMRAB® 3, Defensor 1 or 3, or NOBIVAC® 1 or 3.
 - Alternatively, a recent titer test (within 12 months of show date) for CDV may be presented.
- **Provide proof of vaccinations** at show check-in.
- If a ferret is unvaccinated due to a documented reaction, a signed note from a veterinarian is required.
Note: Initial rabies vaccinations must be administered at least two weeks before the event.

Commitment to Safety and Best Practices

While no positive ADV cases have been reported in over 15 years through AFA-approved testing, the possibility of undetected cases underscores the importance of vigilance. AFA strongly encourages all participants to practice **safe ferret handling habits**, including:

- Sanitizing hands before and after handling ferrets from other households.
- Quarantining new ferrets before introducing them to your group.
- Ensuring all vaccinations are current and, if possible, testing for ADV prior to mingling.

Legal and Disciplinary Action

To protect the ferret community, owners who fail to provide proof of proper vaccinations or knowingly expose other ferrets to communicable diseases at AFA events may face legal and disciplinary consequences.

We are confident these changes will enhance the safety, inclusivity, and educational value of AFA-sanctioned ferret shows. Thank you for your continued commitment to responsible ferret ownership and for helping us build a stronger, healthier community.

We look forward to seeing you and your ferrets in 2025!

For more information or questions, please contact American Ferret Association at AFA@ferret.org.