

# F E R R E T S

## Care and Feeding

	Number of Adults	Number of Young	Cage Dimensions*		Height
			Length	Width	
<b>Breeding/Lactation</b>	1 female	8	75 cm	60 cm	30 cm
<b>Growing</b>	12		75 cm	60 cm	30 cm
<b>Experimental</b>	Varies according to experiment		Variable		

  

<b>Feeding Recommendations</b>	<b>Daily Feed Usage</b>	<b>Water Requirement</b>	<b>Begin Dry Food Consumption</b>
	Growing: feed free choice Breeding: limit feed for lean condition Adult: free choice or limit to desire condition	Ad libitum	4-5 days

## Environmental Data

Room Temp.	Humidity	Light	Litter Material
20-25 °C	45-55%	10-12 hrs./day	Maintain on 1.23 x 2.5 cm wire. Shavings or commercial bedding

## Biological Values

<b>Blood Chemical Composition</b>	Water	Calcium	Sodium	Chloride	Phosphorus	Potassium
	—	9.2 mg/100ml	148 mEq/L	116 mEq/L	5.9 mg/100ml	5.9 mEq/L
	Magnesium	Cholesterol	Glucose	Serum Protein	Albumin	Globulin
	—	162 mg/100ml	110 mg/dl	6.0 gm/100ml	3.2 gm/100ml	2.6 gm/100ml

Values are for plasma, except where noted

## Oxygen Consumption and Body Temperature

Observed Weight	Temperature	Oxygen Consumption	Breathing Rate	Heart Rate Adult	Heart Rate Newborn
—	38-40 °C	—	33-36 /minute	225 /minute	—

## Hematological Values

Whole Blood Volume (T-1824 dye)	Clotting Time	RBC Life Span	RBC Diameter	RBC Rate of Sedimentation
—	—	—	6.1 microns	—
Blood pH	RBC	Hematocrit	Platelets	Hb
—	6.8-12.2 10 <sup>6</sup> /mm <sup>3</sup>	49 ml/100ml	766 10 <sup>3</sup> /mm <sup>3</sup>	16.5 gm/100ml

## Total and Differential White Blood Cell Counts

Leucocytes	Neutros	Eosinos	Basos	Lymphos	Monos
9.2 10 <sup>3</sup> /mm <sup>3</sup>	49 %	3.4 %	0.4 %	45 %	1.15%

## Life Cycle Information

Weight Adult Male	Weight Adult Female	Weight at Birth	Breeding Age Male	Breeding Age Female	Estrus Cycle
800-900 gm	800-900 gm	6-12 gm	9-12 months (700-800gm)	9-12 months (700-800)	Polyestrus
Gestation	Weaning Age	Litter Size	Rebreed After Parturition	Breeding Life Male	Breeding Life Female
41-44 days 42 days avg.	8 weeks 300-450 gm	5-11	After weaning or next breeding season	3-4 years	2-3 years
<b>Mating Data:</b>		Hand mating, leave for 24 hrs.			

\* From D. McLain, et al., Toxicology 1:211 (1987), K. Moody, et al., Lab.An.Sci. 35:272 (1985)