

F E R R E T S

Care and Feeding

	Number of Adults	Number of Young	Cage Dimensions*		Height
			Length	Width	
Breeding/Lactation	1 female	8	75 cm	60 cm	30 cm
Growing	12		75 cm	60 cm	30 cm
Experimental	Varies according to experiment		Variable		
Feeding Recommendations	Daily Feed Usage		Water Requirement		Begin Dry Food Consumption
	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

	Water	Calcium	Sodium	Chloride	Phosphorus	Potassium
Blood Chemical Composition	—	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 ⁶ /mm ³	49 ml/100ml	766 10 ³ /mm ³	16.5 gm/100ml

Total and Differential White Blood Cell Counts

Leucocytes	Neutros	Eosinos	Basos	Lymphos	Monos
9.2 10 ³ /mm ³	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

Mating Data: 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)