INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISORDER (IBD)

Many ferrets will get this. It is an inflammation of the intestinal lining. It causes frequent diarrhea, weight loss, and discomfort. It is a permanent condition, though it can go into remission. There isn’t a standard treatment. You and the vet must figure out what works for your ferret. Treatment can include giving probiotics twice a day, changing the diet, giving stomach medications, giving an anti-diarrheal twice a day, giving Slippery Elm Bark Powder twice a day, giving Prednisone, and treating with antibiotics when diarrhea gets bad enough to cause a bacterial infection.

We usually try to get the ferret off any food that has chicken in it. It is believed chicken has a greater effect on IBD than other meats. Orijen Regional Red cat food does not contain chicken. You can also get chicken-free freeze-dried raw foods and ZiwiPeak.

For at-home treatment:

Try other foods with the ferret to see if that makes a difference. Read the label of what you’re currently feeding and try to find something considerably different.

Add a pinch of probiotics to soup twice a day or you can try to sprinkle the probiotics over the kibble. (The rescue uses Probios probiotics. Any type of probiotics is fine to use.)

Give an anti-diarrheal product, twice a day. [Poopin Pumpkin](https://www.rockyscreaturecomforts.com/product/poopin-pumpkin/) is an excellent anti-diarrheal product. Add a pinch to the soup or even make a soup of it. You can add ½ teaspoon of canned pumpkin to the soup or give it to the ferret straight if it will eat it. Bene-Bac is a paste given for diarrhea. It’s great to have on hand for ferrets with IBD.

Slippery Elm Bark Powder - use 1/8 teaspoon in a bowl of soup twice a day. **Do not use it more than ten days in a row.** It can alter the natural bacteria in the gut and cause further problems. Use for ten days and give a break of at least three days.