RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS

Ferrets get respiratory infections (congestion, sneezing, runny eyes). It’s akin to us going through a bad cold and it’s miserable for them.  This can be contagious to other ferrets. So, keep the ferret quarantined if possible.
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If proper care isn’t taken, it can turn into pneumonia, which is deadly. When the ferret is sick with a respiratory infection, it usually doesn’t want to eat and drink as much as normal. It is important to keep the ferret hydrated and fed.
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If you can get the ferret to a vet, that is the safest thing to do so you can be sure it’s not already pneumonia or close to it. We generally prefer not to start on antibiotics until we are concerned about pneumonia.  If the ferret is just sneezing though, it’s not likely the vet can diagnose anything.
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Get some unflavored Pedialyte (generic is fine). Give your ferret this with a syringe, as much as 75 ccs each day. Use Pedialyte in his water bowl/bottle, rather than water. Be sure to refrigerate the Pedialyte. Any left needs to be thrown out after three days. (If the ferret doesn't like the Pedialyte, then don't leave it in the water bowl.)
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Feed a soup mixture to your ferret, using Pedialyte to mix it rather than water (but not if the ferret doesn't like the Pedialyte). If necessary, let the ferret lick the soup off your finger or a baby spoon to get it to eat as much as possible. As a **last resort**, force-feed the ferret a small amount through the side of the mouth. Be very careful. It is possible for the ferret to inhale some of the soup because of the congestion. This would create pneumonia for sure.
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Run a humidifier in the room where the ferret is kept. If the ferret is lethargic, keep it confined to a cage as much as you can. Cover the cage on all sides and half the front to keep it calmer and warmer
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Give the ferret a steam treatment two to three times a day. Boil a medium or large pot of water. Put the ferret in a carrier or small cage. Put the pot of hot water beside the cage or carrier, then cover it all with a blanket. Make sure the steam from the pot can rise (don’t have the blanket directly over the top of the pot). You want the ferret to be able to breathe in the steam from the hot water to loosen up the congestion. Let the ferret breathe in the steam for five to ten minutes. Lift a corner of the blanket to provide a small vent so it doesn’t get too hot for the ferret.

Make sure the ferret has plenty of soft blankies in the cage that it can cuddle into to keep warm. You can also put a heating pad on low under some of the blankets, so the ferret can sleep there if it wants to get warmer.