

# Identifying polecats and ferrets

Some polecats, ferrets and their hybrids (called polecat-ferrets) can be identified based on key distinguishing characteristics. Polecats and ferrets vary in coloration and display seasonal variations. Any animal with a mixture of polecat and ferret characteristics is usually, but not always, by definition a hybrid.

## Polecat pelage characters

Pale cheek patches and possible frontal band contrast with dark facial mask

No throat patch or less than 50mm in length



Dark fur on face extends to nose

No scattered white guard hairs over body

Dark fur on paws

## Polecat-ferret pelage characters

Pale cheek patches and frontal band often very extensive and contrast poorly with darker facial mask, which may be absent

Throat patch 50mm or more in length

One or more white paws



Dark fur on face does not reach nose

Scattered white guard hairs over body, especially on hindquarters and tail