

Ferrets should be kept by themselves through the breeding seasons; the rest of the year from two to eight can be kept in one hutch. The male should be kept separate or run with the females until February, when the breeding season arrives.

The habits of the ferret in breeding are nearly like those of the dog tribe. They go with young six weeks, and have from three to eleven at a litter; will have two litters a year. Five to seven is as many as can be raised without extra care. For five days before it is time for the female to litter, give her a nest of clean straw; the amount of straw must be regulated by the weather. The young must not be too closely bedded. It is not safe to disturb her young until two or three weeks old, as she might destroy them. They are born blind, and are a number of days before they can see. They are very playful when the right age, and will get in all kinds of shapes.

Ferrets should be handled from the time they are placed before the feed cup; a short time will teach them to be handled without gloves. Never tease them, as it tends to make them cross and snap at anything that moves before them.

Ferrets will hunt when three or four months old. Give them a mouse or half grown rat at first to kill; after they have killed a few they will handle old rats. A full grown rat at first might bite the ferret, so it would be timid always after, but after they have killed one or two without being bitten they will make an old rat squeal. When a ferret has killed a few rats he is ready for all kinds of hunting.

Small ferrets are best for ratting. Female ferrets, weighing twenty ounces, will follow the rats into their holes and do bitter work than the males, which are larger.

Never muzzle your ferret for rats, but it is best to muzzle for rabbits, for if the rabbit has no way of escape, and the ferret kills it in the hole, it will be some time before it will make its appearance, and hinder those that are waiting for it to come out.

It is a great wonder that there are not more that keep ferrets, for they are sure to drive the rats from their hiding places; and for hunting rabbits they cannot be beaten, besides the sport one can have with them.

H. E. SPENCER.

Centre Village, N. Y., Jan'y 20th, 1882.

The good accomplished with steel pens is incalculable, but the cost of a box of Easterbrook's is only nominal. The stationers have them. The trade supplied by Brown Bros., Toronto.

## The Poultry and Dog Exhibition at Simcoe.

### Editor Review.

The third annual show was held in the drill-shed here on the 6th, 7th and 8th ult., and was a decided success. Three years ago a few fanciers here, prominent among whom were Messrs Arthur W. Smith, L. D. S., S. Luscombe and T. and O. Fitzgerald, met and organized the Norfolk Poultry Association, and held the first annual show—partaking, of course, more of a local nature, but still was a good show indeed for the first attempt, and many were surprised at the success. As a natural result, quite a number here had a violent attack of "hen fever," purchased eggs or stock, yes, and I'll admit too, that the disease, which had been with me in a low chronic state for a long time, developed into full activity, and we all went to work to improve our yards. The exhibition of '81 showed a large increase of entries, and the quality of stock on exhibition was far superior to that of the first show.

At the annual meeting following the second show, held in March 1881, it was decided to give prizes on dogs at the show for 1882. This step was taken in the interest of the people of the town, who had largely contributed to the support of the previous shows, and who, probably, like the inhabitants of other towns like Simcoe, have, with a few exceptions, no particular fancy for poultry, but have each a dog, no doubt that is to the owner a source of very great pleasure and profit, and whose value may be estimated at from \$5 all the way up to \$3000 or \$4.00. The results of our late exhibition show that the combining of the dogs with poultry was a good thing. The dogs not only paid their way, but were a great attraction. Many came to the show as visitors out of curiosity to see a dog show. The show of poultry was admitted by all to be by far the largest and best ever seen in Simcoe—one of the oldest Towns of Canada. I cannot express my regret that you were not here. I should gladly have yielded you the honors of reporter, critic, &c. The drill-shed proved to be well adapted for the show, being large, comfortable and with plenty of light. The dogs, some 70 entries, were kennelled on the western side, and the poultry, nearly 550 entries, were cooped towards the eastern side. Dr. J. S. Niven, of London, was the judge on dogs, and gave entire satisfaction to the directors and exhibitors, not a dissenting voice being heard. Being entirely ignorant of the qualifications required to be able to judge whether a dog is well bred or not I shall offer no criticism on the judging, but to any ordinary observer the condition and appearance of nearly all the dogs would at once claim attention. They were all so clean, and in this respect were pleasing and at-