

Running a Ferret Race



Ferret racing makes a great attraction at any event such as summer fetes and fairs. It's also one of those novel ideas that can really add a different dimension to any organisation's fundraising and social events.

We take our ferrets out to Shows and Fetes, in Berkshire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire, Wiltshire, South Gloucestershire and surrounding areas, putting on ferret racing. Not only is this a fun day out for us and the ferrets, but it gives us a chance to promote ferret welfare as well as earn some much needed funds for the rescue. We attend all sorts of shows, from school fetes to country fairs. We can race indoors or outdoors.

How does ferret racing work?

We bring all necessary equipment with us to undertake the races, including marquee, racing tubes, fencing and speaker system. Between races we spend our time talking to people about ferrets and allowing them to stroke and handle the ferrets.

We use clear tubes for all events so those attending can watch the ferrets all the way down the course and back again.

Whilst race tickets are being sold the competing ferrets are paraded around the course perimeter for the spectators/guests to see and meet. Then once all bets are taken the ferrets are held in waiting by the handlers until the **ferret master** (compere for the race) provides the 3-2-1 countdown, and then the ferrets are released into the pipes.

The ferrets race along special clear pipes with obstacles such as a bridge, see saw and paddling pool included in the course. The ferrets are then cheered on by the

spectators as they progress through the tubes and over the obstacles. At the end of the race course the ferrets have to turn themselves around in the box and make their way back along the course to their handlers. The race is not over until the first ferret has emerged and placed all four feet on the floor.

Spectators with winning tickets can choose a prize and any losers can normally choose a consolation ferret pencil.

We have our own ferrets that we bring along to these events, all are friendly and we encourage spectators to meet and stroke our ferrets between races.

Logistics

Depending on the time of year, we can provide racing entertainment indoors or outside. Though we do recommend that winter and early spring events are run indoors or under cover for spectator comfort.



For indoor events the space for the course would need to be 10m x 4m, with standing room around the outside for those being entertained. We normally have a minimum of 7 members of STARacers in attendance for race nights, and for an indoor event will need approximately 1 hour to set everything up beforehand.



For outdoor full day events, where we need our marquee as well as the course, we need a flat area of approximately 30m x 15m in size (the course can be run in front of or parallel to the marquee, and we will have our support van parked behind the marquee).

We normally have a minimum of 10 members of STARacers in attendance on the day, and will need approximately 1.5 hours to set everything up beforehand.

Though if the event starts early morning will often set up and camp over the night before if acceptable to the event organisers.

If you would like to book us for your event please contact Claire on 01189690435 or 07990 977074 or email info@starescue.org.uk