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### **COVER LETTER**

Department of State Division of Corporations P. O. Box 6327 Tallahassee, FL 32314

\$70.00

Filing Fee

SUBJECT: THE AMERICAN FERRET ORGANIZATION, TNC.
(PROPOSED CORPORATE NAME - MUST INCLUDE SUFFIX)

\$78.75

Filing Fee

& Certified Copy

Filing Fee,

Certified Copy

Enclosed is an original and one (1) copy of the Articles of Incorporation and a check for:

\$78.75

Filing Fee &

Certificate of

Status	& Ceruncate
	ADDITIONAL COPY REQUIRED
FROM: GAIL S Name (Prin	BURLAKA  nted or typed)
	dress
BAYONET City, Sta	POINT, FL 34667-6930 ate & Zip 7
	$\frac{362 - 4113}{\text{cphone number}}$
9 DUR LAKA E-mail address: (to be used for fu	E EARTHLINK, net

NOTE: Please provide the original and one copy of the articles.

# ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

In compliance with Chapter 617, F.S., (Not for Profit), the undersigned, a majority of whom are citizens of the United States, desiring to form a Non-Profit Corporation under the Non-Profit Corporation Law of Florida, do hereby certify:

#### ARTICLE I NAME

The name of the corporation shall be: The American Ferret Organization, Inc.

<u>ARTICLE II PRINCIPAL OFFICE</u>				
The address in this state where the principal office of the Corporation	is to be	e loc	ated i	İS
1865 HARBOR WOODS DR. in the County of PINELLAS	نست			
PALM HARBOR, FL	35	12		
The Mailing Address, if different, is:	5	0		
	<u> </u>	$\Box$		
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ARTICLE III PURPOSE	$\cong \Omega$	Ō		
The purpose for which the corporation is organized is:			****	
	,	**		

Said corporation is organized exclusively for educational, scientific and charitable purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, and to:

- 1. Promote the free and public exchange of knowledge and expand the awareness regarding the ferret and other members of the Family Mustelidae.
- 2. Protect the ferret against harm, destruction, or impairment from any endeavor that could lower health, decrease longevity, or species survival potential.
- 3. Promote the welfare and the quality of life of the ferret through support of, proper care and husbandry, good breeding practices, and scientifically valid research.
- 4. Advocate for the open and free acceptance of the ferret as a companion animal, and to protect against any abuse, mischaracterization, or misrepresentation by any person or entity, public or private.
- 5. Provide the foregoing by education and information dissemination and through example, guidance and support.

#### ARTICLE IV TYPE OF ORGANIZATION

The Corporation shall be comprised of Members, with Membership open to the public, regardless of age, sex, race, creed, religion, national origin, disability, or political convictions. The Members shall be consulted in all matters that impact the Members of the organization. Any amendments to the Bylaws must be ratified by a majority of the Members that are eligible to vote under the current Bylaws.

The Corporation shall be directed by a Board of Directors, consisting of no less than five (5), and no more than fifteen (15), current Members in good standing of the organization. Such Board shall direct the organization in keeping with the Purpose, as shown in Article III.

# ARTICLE V MANNER OF ELECTIONS

The manner in which the directors are elected and appointed:

The Incorporators shall hold an organizational meeting at the call of a majority of the Incorporators to

- 1. Elect directors and complete the organization of the Corporation; or
- 2. Elect a Board of Directors who shall complete the organization of the Corporation.

From the date commencing with the election of the Board of Directors, all future boards of directors shall be elected by the Members in a manner that is both public and transparent. Board Meetings must be held at least once in a Calendar year.

#### Article VI EARNINGS AND ACTIVITIES:

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article III hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

# Article VII DISSOLUTION:

Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes whose focus is on the health and welfare of the ferret and whose Bylaws conform to the general goals and objectives of this corporation. If such an organization does not exist at that time, the assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes to one or more organizations whose mission is to provide for the health and welfare of pets within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

## ARTICLE VII REGISTERED AGENT

The name and Florida street address (P.O. Box NOT acceptable) of the registered agent is:

Name:

Lenard Kishter

Address:

4865 Harbor Woods Drive Palm Harbor, FL 34683 Land Kinhing Gail S. Burlaka

ARTICLE 1X INCORPORATORS

The name and address of the Incorporator is:

Name and Title:

Gail Burlaka

Address:

13411 Rome Drive Bayonet Point, Florida 34667-6930

Name and Title:

Freddie Ann Hoffman

Address:

5611 16th St., NW Washington, D.C. 20011-6809

Name and Title: Address:

Kim Mulherin

405 Georgetown Ct., NE.

Leesburg, VA 20176

Having been named as registered agent to accept service of process for the above stated corporation at the place designated in this certificate, I am familiar with and accept the appointment as registered agent and agree to act in this capacity

Required Signature of Registered Agent

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Date

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10/15/12

I submit this document and affirm that the facts stated herein are true. I am aware that any false information submitted in a document to the Department of State constitutes a third degree felony as provided for in s.817.155, F.S.

Required Signature of Incorporator

Sail S. Burlaka

Date

10-13-12

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