

# Polecats

## are on

## prowl

POLECATS are on the prowl in Wilmslow and Alderley Edge.

The cute creatures, related to ferrets, have been spotted enjoying village life, says a leading wild life expert.

They are following in the footsteps of foxes which have thrived in an urban environment after being squeezed out of their traditional habitats, says nature lover, Martin Turner.

Martin who has dedicated time to rehabilitating sick and endangered animals at his sanctuary in Wilmslow said although uncommon the the north west generally the mammals have been seen more frequently in Alderley Edge and Wilmslow over the past two years.

He said: "Polecats and urban areas don't tend to mix but they can survive. Over the past couple of years I have been getting calls from people who thought they had found mink in their gardens but I could tell they were polecats.

"Five months ago I rescued a two month old polecat from drowning at Monks Heath. He was in a bad way so I took him home to nurse him and planned to bring him back when he was independent.

"I didn't want him to bond with me so I always wore a leather gauntlet. One day I forgot and when I went to feed him, instead of biting my hand, he licked it. It was then I knew he'd lost some of the traits of wild polecats and he'd be better off with me."