



Deborah Cipriani's polecats live in the lap of luxury



Skunks come in an assortment of colors and personalities, says the foster mama



From baby carriages to kisses (inset), Deborah treats the abandoned pets like her own children

'SKUNK LADY' LIVES WITH 50 LITTLE STINKERS!

YOU'VE heard of cat ladies. Well, meet the "Skunk Lady"! Deborah Cipriani, 55, hosts over 50 of the tamed little stinkers at her home in North Ridgeville, Ohio. Known as Skunk Haven, her house has become a refuge for unwanted pet Pepe Le Pews.

"Skunks can be lovable, devoted pets," says Deborah. "We treat them all like family."

The de-scented American polecats have free rein over her five-bedroom house. Many of them even sleep on her bed, yet her partner Kevin never gets his nose out of joint.

"They've all got different per-

sonalities," says Deborah. "Some are nice, some are not. Some want to sleep on the bed, some don't."

She adopted her first skunk in 2000 to help deal with the grief of losing her mother. Today, caring for the skunks has become a second job for the customer service worker.

They're available for adoption to good homes, but Deborah is happy to keep them all.

"I get up at 4:30 a.m. to feed and clean every skunk in the house, and that takes about three hours," she says. "I then go to work, and when I come home, the routine starts all over again."

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