

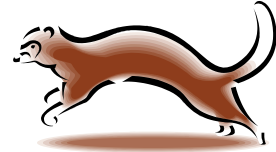
Intruder

A hungry ferret has caused panic on a train by racing around carriages and eating the driver's lunch, a train company says.



Frightened passengers screamed as the stray animal clambered over their laps after jumping on board at Leicester station in England.

The ferret caused a stir on board the Midlands Mainline passenger train.



The wild, fierce animal ran at top speed around the Nottingham-bound Midland Mainline service, before it sneaked into the driver's cab and dived into his lunch box.

A company spokesman said the ferret ate the driver's cheese sandwiches and biscuits before he noticed the intruder.

'Scared stiff'

"The passengers were all scared stiff that the ferret was going to bite them."

"They were all going crazy," said the Midland Mainline spokesman.

"We have recently introduced a strict control on fare-dodging - we are thinking of introducing a new policy of ferret-dodging."

After discovering the animal, the train driver radioed ahead to Long Eaton station, in Derbyshire, 15 minutes down the track, to ask for help.

RSPCA inspectors were called on board and took the ferret away in a cardboard box.