

Small Pet Rodent Awareness Week



Mouse Care Sheet

WHAT IS A MOUSE?

Mice are small rodents who are very active. They are best housed in groups of 3 or more as they are social animals and are easily tamed. They're intelligent, playful and curious and love interaction and exploring their cage!

KEY INFORMATION

- Lifespan: 1-2 years
- Size: 5-8 cm
- Colour: various
- Nocturnal: no. they are crepuscular (meaning most active at dawn and dusk)

DIET

• Mice are omnivores so need a good quality mix such as the Beri mouse mix from Rat Rations. Mice require extra protein so feeding a few dried meal worms as a weekly treat is perfect. Other safe treats include: gravy or milk bones, dried pasta, small amounts of veggies, loose millet spray, hay and dried forage should be provided.

Mice require unlimited fresh water in water bottle with a metal tube or shallow bowl.

ACCOMMODATION

Indoors in a cage - min. size of 80x50cm but bigger is better, for example the Alaska, Savic Plaza, Barney, Hamster Heaven, Savic Freddy 2, Detolf, or Duna Multy Maxi.

Mice may be small in size but they are incredibly energetic and will need a large cage to live in with lots of enrichment to keep them happy and healthy. Cages with narrow bar spacing are most suitable. If you prefer to use a tank, you must ensure it has good ventilation and opportunities for them to climb. Mice need hides, huts and hammocks for sleeping.

ENRICHMENT

Provide a solid surface exercise wheel, for example. a 20cm Trixie wheel or a large flying saucer. Provide two wheels for larger groups.

Mice love to dig so will need a deep layer of paper based bedding, for example. Softacard, Finacard or Fitch in the base of their cage. They need nesting material such as hay, unscented toilet and kitchen roll, avoid using fluffy or cotton wool type bedding.

Provide plenty of toys, ropes, hammocks, empty loo rolls, egg boxes etc. Scatter feeding rather than using a bowl also encourages natural foraging behaviour.

HANDLING

Mice aren't always keen to be handled but will rarely bite you - they can be quite speedy though so just be careful not to accidentally drop them. The best way to pick them up is by using two hands to gently scoop them up from underneath. Never pick up or hold a mouse by its tail; this can cause serious injury and pain.

NEUTERING

Mice need company of their own kind. Males should be neutered and introduced to females 6 weeks post-neuter. They can also live with other neutered males or a mix of both. Only use a vet that's experienced with neutering mice.

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