

Mouse Care Sheet

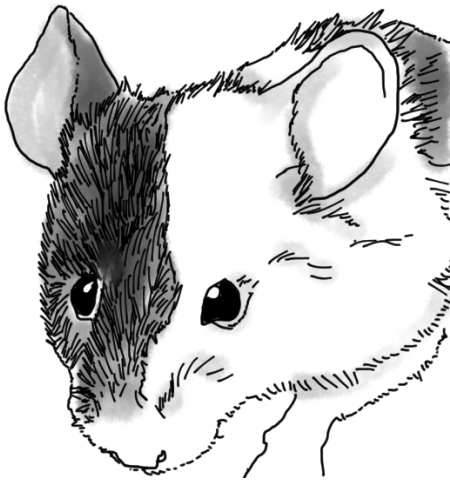


Your Pets Super Store

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Congratulations on your new pet. Domestic mice can be among the most charming of pets. They have the advantages of taking up little space, being inexpensive to feed and easy to handle. A pet mouse can live for up to two years if properly cared for. Mice can be white (albino) or fancy. Fancy mice come in a variety of coat colors and types. They are nocturnal by nature and will be most active in the middle of the night.

GENERAL-----

Until your mouse is used to being picked up, try using a paper cup to scoop her up and release her onto your hand. Small children should be supervised when handling the mouse, they are small and fragile, and should not be squeezed too tightly! Never grab a mouse by the middle or end of the tail as this can cause injuries. If you have other pets, watch them carefully when your mouse is out of the cage and never leave them alone in the same room. Mice are very good jumpers and can get out of sight quickly. Mice are very social with other mice, females do very well in small groups. Do not house males and females together as they breed quickly, often and with large litters.

HOUSING-----

If you choose a cage, make sure it is intended for mice and that the bars are no further than 1/4 inch apart. Plastic hamster habitats can also be used but will require more cleaning. A ten gallon glass aquarium (minimum) with a wire cover can make a home for up to three mice. Look for a safe bedding such as aspen, pine shavings or Carefresh. Cedar can be hazardous to your pets' health. Mice enjoy a house and toys such as a wheel, ladders, tubes and teeter-totters. Adding some hay in the house will make it easy for your mouse to build a warm and cozy nest. Keep the cage indoors, away from drafts and extreme temperatures.

DIET-----

Mice eat quite a lot of food considering their small size. Check your mouse's food bowl daily to be sure it has plenty of dry food. A packaged mouse diet that is high in husked oats and millet is ideal. Your pet mouse will enjoy some fresh fruit and vegetable treats. Peas, broccoli, carrots, apples and bananas are good foods to start with, but you may need to experiment to find your pets' favorites. Please don't overdo it though, mice have tiny tummies! As with all rodents, mice need safe chew toys and branches to gnaw on to wear down their teeth. Fresh, clean water should always be available. If you have a plastic bottle it should be attached outside the cage. Do not feed your mouse cabbage, chocolate, candy, junk food or onions.

CLEANING

Remove droppings, uneaten food and soiled bedding from your pets' cage every day. Clean the entire cage weekly. Male mice produce more odors and will likely need to be cleaned at least twice a week. If the cage is left too long between cleanings, ammonia builds up and will cause your mouse to have breathing problems. To clean the cage thoroughly scrub, it down with a mild cleanser and rinse completely. Remember to clean your mouse's water bottle, food dishes, toys and other accessories too. Dry everything well before returning your mouse to it's home.

HEALTH

Mice are generally hardy creatures with few health problems, but if you suspect something is wrong do not hesitate to take your pet mouse to a veterinarian.

FERTILITY

Consult one of our pet specialists.

CHECKLIST

- _____ ten gallon aquarium with wire cover and clips
- _____ aspen or Carefresh bedding
- _____ sleeping / hiding house
- _____ soild exercise wheel
- _____ fresh mouse pellets
- _____ treats
- _____ water bottle
- _____ safe chew toys and branches
- _____ tubes, teeter-totter, toys to climb on / hide in