

Mice

LIFESPAN: 1 1/2 - 3 YEARS

Description

Mice are small nocturnal rodents that are often kept as pets. Mice have poor eyesight, but a keen sense of hearing. They are small creatures that should be handled carefully – never grab a mouse by its tail to avoid injury! Mice can make wonderful, friendly pets if the potential is recognized.

Housing

Clear glass tanks are best suited for mice. They are rodents that chew, so plastic cages are not recommended. The tank must be accompanied by a screen lid. Lids can be secured using clips.

Aspen or a dust-free paper bedding are the best choices for bedding.

Avoid cedar, pine, straw, or corn-cob bedding.

Tanks should include: feed bowl/s, water bottle, chew toys/hideaways, and a wheel.

Place the tank away from direct sunlight and/or extreme temperatures.



Diet

Mice can be fed a quality commercial seed mix or lab block diet. (or a mix of both!)
Mice can also be given Timothy hay.

Fresh produce make good treats, but do not over-feed.

Vegetables: Peas, Broccoli, Cauliflower, Cucumber, Parsley, Spinach.

Fruit (remove pits/seeds): Apples, Tomato, Pear, Bananas, Grapes, Strawberries, Peaches, Cranberries.

Other treats: Bread, Dry dog food, (unsalted) Crackers, Cooked Fish, Cooked Pork, Chopped Mixed Nuts, Scrambled/boiled Eggs, Baby Food, Corn Flakes, Pizza Crust.

Grooming

Mice are not animals that need to be brushed or bathed unless absolutely necessary.

Exercise

Mice should be given a solid-surface wheel for in-cage exercise.

One or Two?

Female mice should live in pairs or groups.

Male mice should always be housed alone to prevent fighting.

Health

It is important to find a vet experienced in mice, as well as an emergency vet for after-hours care. Mice do not require routine veterinary care, but can fall sick or injured just as any other pet.

More common health ailments to watch out for include:

- **Tumors**

Mice can develop tumors. Tumors will grow and get worse if left untreated.

If you notice any lumps or bumps on your mouse, it is best to see a veterinarian to determine whether or not it can be treated.

- **Obesity**

Mice can eat a large variety of foods. Because of this, some owners did to over-feed treats. This can lead to obesity – which can then lead to many other health ailments. It is important to feed high-fat foods (nuts, seeds, sugary food, etc) to avoid obesity.

- **Overgrown teeth/Malocclusion**

Overgrown teeth will need to be treated by your veterinarian. If the condition is serious, and your veterinarian diagnosis your mouse with malocclusion, it will require periodic trimmings in order to maintain the condition.

