

MOUSE CARE

The common pet mouse (*Mus musculus*) is a small rodent available in a variety of colours and types. They can make great pets due to their intelligence and social nature. They may be easily trained if handled well from an early age. They usually live between 1-3 years, if looked after correctly.

HOUSING

- Mice should be housed in a large glass or wire enclosure which is easy to clean and well ventilated.
- Water bottles should be easily accessible and checked daily for blockages.
- The cage should be lined with absorbent bedding such as shavings or recycled paper products.
- There should be multiple shelters provided so the mice have somewhere to hide
- Mice are very active and inquisitive animals so within the cage, nest material, wheels and toys should be provided. However, be aware that toys will be quickly destroyed, so replaceable cardboard rolls and boxes often provide the best entertainment. It is best to avoid wooden toys, as they absorb moisture and can harbour bacteria.
- The cage should be cleaned out at least twice a week to help prevent disease as build up of urine can lead to health problems.
- Temperature – ensure that the tank is kept out of direct sunlight as these enclosures will easily overheat.

COMPANIONS

- Mice are sociable animals and are best kept in single sex groups or as a breeding pair. Male mice may show aggression towards each other when housed together, so housing two male mice together may lead to fighting.
- To avoid unwanted offspring, it is recommended to neuter mixed sex groups.

WHAT TO FEED

- Mice are naturally omnivorous, eating whatever they can find in the wild.
- In captivity, they may be fed commercial rodent pellets (rather than muesli, to avoid selective eating) with additional fresh fruit and vegetables.
- Small portion of hay to be placed in the cage daily.
- 1 small handful of vegetables and some fruit daily (Remove from the cage if not eaten, before the fruit ferments).
- Beware overfeeding sugary “treats” as obesity and dental problems are commonly seen.
- Fresh water in all water bottles daily.
- Water should always be freely available via a drinking bottle and changed daily.

NEUTERING

- Recommended if keeping male and female mice together, to avoid unwanted pregnancy.
- Mice can have a litter every 3-4 weeks if kept entire. A female mouse can become pregnant within 24 hours of giving birth.

ANNUAL HEALTH CHECKS

We recommend annual health checks every year for pet mice as medical problems are more easily treated if detected at an early stage – **you can register for automatic reminders.**