

Health Care

Mice need hard objects to chew to keep their teeth short, clean and healthy. These provide valuable entertainment for them and satisfy a natural urge to gnaw. The most popular items for this purpose are flavoured salt and mineral lick stones and various types of wood chews.

Because of the different PH levels between mouse and human skin, human shampoo should never be used on your mouse. Instead use a shampoo made specially for small animals to get them smelling sweet! Shampoos that contain pesticides can make your mouse ill, so always ensure you read the label thoroughly and if in doubt please ask one of our Small Animal Staff for assistance.

Most animals need regular worming and mice are no exception. Mice are easily wormed using a specially formulated sweet liquid which most of them enjoy. This is given 2 consecutive days every 3 months for life.

The most common ailments to afflict mice are two different types of parasite – lice and mites.

Lice are a common parasite that live on mice, biting and irritating them (they are very similar to fleas on dogs or head lice on humans). Symptoms include constant itching, red skin, and a dull coat. They are easily treated by directly applying a spray or rinse. The cage and bedding should also be treated. Treatment should be repeated in 7 days to cover any lice eggs that may have hatched in that time. Repeat this until your cage is free of lice. This strain of lice is not contagious to humans.

Mites are a parasite that live under the skin. Symptoms of mites include constant scratching, red or scabby skin, lethargy and dull coat. Left untreated mites can cause death. They are best treated orally by a vet.

Treats

Below is a list of foods that are very good for mice, and some that are not so good. Some food and plants can be quite toxic to mice so if you are not sure whether a certain food is safe then it's best not to feed it!

THESE ARE GOOD FOR MICE!

Lettuce (sml amounts)	Parsley
Parsnips	Beans
Turnips	Cabbage (sml amounts)
Spinach	Cauliflower
Silverbeet	Cauliflower stalks
Beetroot	Fresh cut green grass
Watermelon	Nectarine
Rockmelon	Carrots
Cucumber	Hullsted or rolled oats
Choko	Bran
Tomato	Sunflower stalks and leaves
Apples	Apricot
Pumpkin	Weetbix
Strawberry	Cornflakes
Plum	Brown bread
Zucchini	Corn
Orange	Alfalfa
Banana	Lucerne (fresh & dried)

DO NOT FEED THESE !!

Rhubarb	Onions
Bulb plants of any type	Bleu Cheese
Raw Dry Beans	Onion grass
Liquorice	Raw red cabbage
Peanuts	Green bananas
Fizzy Drinks	Wild insects
Butter Cups	Human chocolate
Potatos tops & skins or any green parts	
Any unripe fruit or vegetables	

Pet City

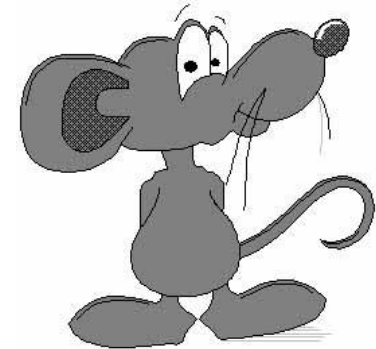
MOUSE CARE SHEET

Mice make wonderful pets for both children and adults alike. They are fun to watch, inexpensive to maintain and take up very little space. But just because they are small doesn't mean there isn't a lot to consider before adding one to your family.

Responsible pet ownership always involves a certain amount of planning, commitment, time and expense. So in all fairness to you and your pet, always do your homework first and learn as much as possible about the animal, including its requirements, health and behavior.

At *Pet City* we do our best to ensure that your new pet is as healthy and happy as possible.

This brochure has been created by *Pet City* to give you some helpful tips and practical information for keeping mice.



Cage Care

Mice need space to play and explore. The size of the cage you select will depend on the number of mice you decide to keep. Remember that mice are colonial animals that do best when they can interact with other mice. They enjoy group housing and socialization and for these reasons you should consider keeping a minimum of two mice, ideally two females. Males however should live alone as they will fight. (Unless they are littermates that were raised together.)

As their eyes are very sensitive to light, mice should always have a dark place to hide within their cage. Bright light can cause pain and eye damage to sensitive mouse eyes, especially with albinos. Also note that rats are natural predators of mice, so if you keep both species you should house them in different rooms to avoid stressing your mice.

Wire cages may cause sores on the soles of their feet, and are quite uncomfortable for mice to stand on. If your cage has a wire floor consider taking it out and using a base of soft bedding instead. Ensure that your mouse always has access to soft bedding in the cage.

The best type of bedding for mouse cages is made of recycled news paper. The highly absorbent pellets work to keep the cage smelling fresh. They are also soft on little feet!

It is important to note that if you are using a wood shaving bedding special care must be taken to avoid any scented or oiled types as these can cause respiratory problems.

The cage should be cleaned once or twice a week depending on the size of the cage and how many mice are kept in it. It is recommended an antibacterial cleansing spray is used to wipe down the cage. This will kill any germs and assist with eliminating smells. Be careful as cleansing agents that contain eucalyptus or menthol can kill your mouse.

Ensure that you rinse the cage well before putting your mice back in.

When introducing a new mouse to your existing friend, it is a good idea to clean out the cage first making it a neutral smelling territory for all involved. This will help reduce any possible territorial disputes!

Feeding



As mice require a varied diet we recommend that you feed your mouse a mixture of a good Small Animal Mix, and wild bird seed or small parrot seed. Note that any seed you give your mice must be free of shell grit. Your Mouse also needs a daily source of protein in their diet. This can easily be given to them in the form of dry dog or cat food biscuits, or Pet City's specially formulated Protein Berry Mix.

Alternatively you can feed a premium food such as "Lil'Friends" which has all their dietary requirements perfectly balanced and conveniently packaged.

Mice need a lot of water to fuel their fast metabolisms. Make sure they always have plenty of fresh water available, either in a heavy bowl that they cannot tip over or in a specially designed hanging water bottle. A water bottle is the best choice as they cannot soil in or contaminate the water. To prevent algae from building up in the water bottle you can use "Small Animal Water Guard Drops".

There are a wide range of commercial treats available for mice such as yoghurt drops and seed bars. Fresh fruit and vegetables also make nutritious treats. Make sure you never feed unripe fruit or vegetables though as these can be toxic to mice. You will soon notice that your mice have personal preferences for what they enjoy eating.

An excellent source of vitamins for mice is a vitamin supplement that can be added to their drinking water. Easy to administer and readily available "Aristopet Small Animal Vitamin Supplement" will help to ensure your pet is receiving the correct balance of vitamins. Salt and mineral lick stones placed in the cage can also be of benefit.

Some signs of vitamin deficiency are dull coat, lethargy, skin lesions, susceptibility to infection, and reluctance to walk. If you have a mouse that seems to show any of these signs it might be a good idea to review your pets diet. In extreme cases please contact your vet for advice.

Entertainment

Mice are lively creatures and love to play! They have inquisitive minds and enjoy it when there are a variety of toys, tunnels and hanging objects in their cage to make their life more interesting. They get very excited when you rearrange their cage and rotate their toys.

Mice are very active and need lots of exercise. This is easy to provide with an exercise wheel. These are a must have for any mouse!

Most modern cages include a wheel, otherwise there are many styles and sizes to choose from. Ideally you should get a wheel with a solid floor to prevent your mouse from accidentally being caught in the rungs of the wheel or developing sores on its feet. There are many household items you can use to make fun tunnels, hide outs and mazes for your mouse. You are limited only by your imagination!

Some cages such as the 'Crittter Trail' range have a wide variety of available attachments so you can rearrange and add to your cage on a regular basis.

Mouse balls are another great source of exercise and entertainment, and allow the mice to enrich their lives by having freedom for a short time.

The transparent ball is brightly colored making it easy to see as they roll it around your house. The mice are secure in the ball, and its size makes it impossible for them to get where they shouldn't (ie: behind the fridge, etc). Note that you should slowly get your mouse used to it's ball, making it a positive experience and gradually building up the time that your mouse stays inside.

