



NORFOLK INDUSTRIES FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

Part of *Independence Matters*

Guide to Mice

Latin Name - Mus Musculus

Scientific Order - Rodent

Average Adult Size – 3 inches long (Average)

Average Life Span – Up to 3 years with proper care

Diet – Omnivores



General Information

Social and highly active, mice are entertaining and interesting pets. Being nocturnal, pet mice are mostly active during the evening and don't mind being left alone while you're out during the day. Requiring food, housing, bedding and toys, mice are relatively easy to care for.

As naturally social creatures, female mice tend to thrive when housed with another mouse of the same sex. (It is recommended that males are kept by themselves as they may fight and often kill another mouse.)

As mice tend to acclimate easily to average household temperatures, it's important that their mouse cages allow for plenty of ventilation and are not placed in areas that receive direct sunlight, as excessive heat can be detrimental to health of your pet mice.

Behaviour

Mice are very curious animals that like to burrow, hide in objects and play. They are active during the night and rest during the day. They do, however, live almost exclusively inside, and are markedly more inquisitive than rats, actively investigating rather than avoiding new objects.



Mice are also erratic and sporadic feeders, moving between 20 or more different feeding spots each night and only consuming small amounts of food at each.



Much like their rat relatives, mice are quite intelligent and can be trained to do various tricks. Given consistent training and a great deal of patience, pet mice can even be trained to come to you on command, eat out of your hand, as well as go straight to their mouse cages on command.

Naturally curious and playful, mice are clever escape artists, which is why mouse cages and habitats must be secured well enough to contain them. Mice supplies, such as hideaways, an exercise wheel and chew toys are important as they keep them occupied and keep teeth short, while soft and absorbent bedding allows them to burrow as it also maintains the hygiene within their cages.



Equipment Required

- Cage/habitat – They do best when housed in large cages with a plastic base and the sides at least 4cm high and wire bars approximately 1cm, this is to keep the mouse inside.
- A demand-type water bottle to provide clean water at all times. A dish may be used only in emergencies as your pet will immediately spill the water or push shavings in it. If you use a feed dish, it should be easy to clean and sturdy to prevent tipping.
- Bedding materials – Such as Norfolk Industries recycled shredded paper bedding -www.norfolkindustries.co.uk/products/recycled-pet-bedding/newspaper-bedding/



- Bedding materials – Paper flakes and cotton are also suitable for mice and also available from our website.



- Due to their nature to hide, mice need tubes or other hiding places – such as Norfolk Industries ‘Chewy’ tubes complete with bedding, to provide hideaway place and help with chewing ability. See product details at www.norfolkindustries.co.uk/products/nesting-tubes/



- Animal House – such as Norfolk Industries Small Animal house, see product details at <https://www.norfolkindustries.co.uk/products/animal-house/animal-houses/>



Food - Mice should be fed a combination of ad lib fresh fruits and vegetables and small amounts of good quality mouse/rat pellets or cubes (ensure they have a protein content of at least 16% & fat content of 4-5%) Some examples of fruit and vegetables include: apples, banana, melons, broccoli, cabbage, brussel sprouts and carrots. Avoid feeding mice a seed/grain mix as these are too high in fat and sugar.

Maintenance Tasks

- Mice like to be kept clean and as such their toys and other fixtures within their cages need to be cleaned on a weekly basis and for their bedding to be replaced weekly as well. You can leave a toy or some unclean bedding in the cage to keep the environment a familiar one for them.

Grooming and Hygiene

- With a preference for cleanliness, mice generally don't need baths, but can be spot-cleaned with a mild soap and warm water, but only if needed.

General Health Conditions

- Diarrhoea-Loose stool caused by poor dirt, stress internal parasites, unclean housing or other illness. Suggested Action-Consult with an exotic animal veterinarian to determine cause and treatment.
- Malocclusion-Overgrown teeth. Suggested Actions- Consult with an exotic animal veterinarian to have teeth trimmed regularly.
- Mites-External parasites that cause mice to lose patches of hair. Suggested Action- Consult with an exotic animal veterinarian for treatment.
- Tumors-Abnormal lumps. Consult with an exotic animal veterinarian for treatment.



General Care Information

Mice must be kept out of direct sunlight and any drafts, as it is easy for them to become over-heated which could be enough to kill them.

Remember to always wash your hand before and after handling mice.

Information supplied by –



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NOT **DISABILITY**



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