

Mouse Care Sheet

Lifespan: 1-3 years

Length: 3"

Cage size: Minimum 10" H 13" L

Gestation Period: 20 days

Behaviour:

Mice are energetic, inquisitive little creatures who are always busy and on the move, providing hours of entertainment with their antics. Mice are best kept with company (pairs or more).

Bedding: Critter crumbles OR Carefresh. Mice are sensitive to allergies/ respiratory disease. For this reason wood shavings should not be used for Mice.

Diet: Rat & Mouse Vetafarm pellets, seeds, fresh fruit and vegetables. A salt lick is important for mice in captivity, particularly in warmer weather when they can lose a lot of salt. Salt licks also help keep teeth trim and sharp.

What you need to house your pet Mouse:

- Cage (bigger the better)
- Bedding (Carefresh, critter crumbles)
- Rodent origins pellets, fruit and vegetables
- Salt licks, wood chews,
- Toys (mouse approved)
- Wormer syrup, Mite & Lice spray, Vitamin drops, Shampoo, Cage cleaner
- Food dish, water bottle
- Plastic house (to nest and keep warm in)
- Cage cover (to cover at night)
- Brush, nail clippers

DIET:

Dry mix of corn, crushed peas and pellets (Vetafarm Cavy Origins). Do not overdose your mouse on protein by allowing its diet to be too rich in peanuts or sunflower seeds, or it could get spots and sores. They also require fresh fruit and vegetables every day. A salt lick is important for mice in captivity, particularly in warmer weather when they can lose a lot of salt. Salt licks also help keep teeth trim and sharp.

WHAT TO FEED:

Vetafarm pellets (RODENT ORIGINS), fruits and vegetables

Vegetables:

Sprouts, Spinach, Turnip Greens, Swiss chard, Mustard Greens, Broccoli, Escarole, Chicory, Tomatoes, Beet Greens, Bok Choy, Grated Carrots, Collard greens, Corn on the Cob, Endive, Kale, Yams, Yams. Pumpkin and Sweet Potato can also be added however they are better when they are cooked).

Fruits:

Cantaloupe, Apricots, Nectarines, Papayas, Peaches Apples, Bananas, Grapes, Oranges. Make sure your Mouse does not have any seeds from fruits, some can be very dangerous, like Cherry pits as they may contain trace amounts of cyanide.

Extra dietary foods:

It's OK for your mouse to eat cooked eggs (hard boiled or scrambled), yogurt, cottage cheese and peanuts in very small amounts. Other foods that can be included into their diet are small amounts are whole wheat pasta and bread, brown rice, unsweetened cereals and small dog biscuits. Special treats – Whole nuts in the shell (almonds, Brazil nuts, and walnuts), Sunflower seeds (high in fat), and carob chips.

WHAT NOT TO FEED:

- *Salty foods, processed sugar, rhubarb, greasy foods, Mangos, Avocado, chocolate, potato, fruit seeds/pips, dried beans (always cook or fully sprout first), alcohol, caffeine, garlic, onion, tobacco, cabbage, raw potato, asparagus, eggplant, milk, cream, sugar and high fat treats.*

Housing

The larger the cage the better, your mouse should be able to run about freely with plenty of space to add toys, hammocks, bedding and room for exercise. It is important to consider spacing between the bars as you wouldn't want to risk their head getting stuck or them getting out. It is important to give your mouse plenty of enrichment toys to prevent boredom. We recommend adding tunnels, rope toys, treat balls and/or hammocks inside the enclosure to give them plenty of mental stimulation during the day. A bored mouse can become lonely and depressed, for this reason we normally recommend getting them in pairs (same sex). Keeping in mind the more mice you have the bigger the enclosure needs to be. Some males can be more aggressive when kept together. If this is the case a second cage may be required as they can be very aggressive towards each other and cause serious injuries. Mice will groom each other, play and snooze together. Unlike birds keeping them in pairs does not mean they will be less social with their owners. However, mice can be kept alone so long as they are given lots of love and kept in an area where they are made feel like part of the family. Keep your furry friends in a draft free and safe area. Cover the enclosure at night (especially during winter) with a towel or blanket to stop drafts and to reduce stress to the mice. They are highly intelligent little creatures that love to keep active (especially when young). Make each day exciting and challenging for them by providing them with toys and vary their treats up as much as possible. Contrary to popular belief, mice themselves are quite clean (unlike wild mice) they constantly groom themselves throughout the day. It is important to clean the cage, replace substrate (Carefresh or critter crumbles/ dust free bedding) and clean all toys and bowls at least once a week, depending of the size of the cage and how many mice are being housed together. Replace dishes, and toys when worn

or damaged. Ensure that there are no habitat parts or toys with lead, zinc or lead-based paints or galvanized parts as these can cause serious medical issues if ingested by your mouse. For this reason it is important that a natural cleaning product be used when cleaning occurs. Be sure to reduce the amount of chemicals used throughout the house (flea bombs, mertein sprays etc) as these fumes can be harmful. Mice cannot be housed together with any other pet (guinea pig, rat etc) as they can become aggressive if threatened or can be vulnerable to a larger rodent.

DENTAL CARE:

Mice have incisors and molars. Incisors are the four, long, sharp front teeth, two on top and two on the bottom. Mouse incisors are highly specialized for gnawing. They are open-rooted, which means they grow throughout life. Molars are the rearmost teeth in the mouth, used for grinding food prior to swallowing it. As their teeth keep growing it is important to provide them with salt licks and wooden chews to help keep them trim.

Recommended toys-

- Natural wood toys (these are particularly great for gnawing the teeth and nails down)
- Lofa shapes
- Colourful block toys with chains
- Toys with approved leather attached
- Snugly hammocks and tunnels (to keep us warm and safe)
- Exercise wheel (make sure they are MICE approved)
- Treat cabob, treat balls (enrichment toys to help reduce boredom)
- Cat cage balls (we love to roll these around)

Treatments

Mite and Lice spray- Your FURRY friend should be treated with mite & lice spray every 3 months as prevention. If you are “treating” for mite and lice they should be treated twice a day for up to 14 days. The enclosure should also be regularly cleaned (remove all bedding every 2 days to remove eggs and larvae of the mite and lice). Keep a close eye on their skin during this time. If symptoms persist visit an animal care facility or a vet.

Signs of mite and lice are: Excess scratching, redness and hair loss may occur. If symptoms persist visit an animal care facility or a vet.

Wormer: Your mouse should be treated with a wormer treatment every 3 months as a preventative as well as a treatment.

Signs of worms: The common signs are weight loss, diarrhoea and loss of appetite. Treat your rat if you notice these symptoms or every 3 months. If symptoms persist visit an animal care facility or a vet.

Shampoo: Mice can be bathed regularly with a small animal friendly shampoo.

Vitamin drops: Can be added into the water bottle daily for added vitamin support.

Remember to monitor their health regularly as mice can be very good at hiding sickness or disease. Watch out for puffy fur, being inactive, sleeping a lot, not their usual happy self. If signs of illness occur contact your local small animal Vet for advice.

