

Is this the right pet for me?

Specially bred for their looks and temperament, pet mice are lively little creatures that make rewarding and inexpensive pets. These low maintenance pets are not noisy or demanding and take up very little space. Mice are highly social animals and watching them play amongst themselves is very entertaining. Pet mice come in a variety of coat colours. "Fancy mice" is the term given to those mice that have been bred with unusual colour, pattern and/or coat types.

Mice are best kept in same sex pairs (ideally littermates), or small groups. Keep house male and female mice separately unless you want a large family of mice in a very short time! Don't put two males together in a cage unless they are littermates. Mice are nocturnal, so they are most active in the evening and at night.

Recommended for...

- People with limited time or budgets.
- School aged children.
- Apartment dwellers.

Lifespan

1-2 years.

Feeding

While mice will eat almost anything, including grains and meat products, a combination of commercial mouse cubes or pellets, seed

and grain mix and fresh fruits and vegetables is the easiest way to feed mice. Some fresh hay is recommended for extra fibre, and your mice will also love to play with it and will use it to build nests. Overfeeding may cause diarrhoea and other health concerns like obesity.

Always provide free access to fresh, cool water.



NEW MOUSE CHECKLIST

Here's a list of the essentials you'll need for your new Mouse. Please ask any of Best Friends team to help you with your selections.

Essential equipment

- Secure cage and bedding.
- Heavy feed dish or a bowl which attaches to the side of the cage.
- A water bottle which attaches to the side of the cage.
- Wooden chew block.
- Nest box for sleeping.
- An exercise wheel.

Food

- A supply of commercial mouse cubes or pellets or an mouse appropriate seed and grain mix.
- A mixture of fresh fruits & vegetables.
- Some fresh hay.

Your mice will also love...

A changing selection of cubby houses, cardboard boxes, climbing ladders and tunnels to hide and play in.

Special Offer:



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www.bestfriendspets.com.au

Caring for your Mouse





Housing

Your mice need a warm, clean and dry mouse house. It must be made of a strong material such as tough plastic or metal and have a secure lid, as mice are great escape artists and will rarely return to their cage if they do escape. Wire floors should be covered with a solid material to prevent damage to their feet. Old aquariums are also a good mouse house, however ensure that it has added ventilation and is in a shaded location as it can become a very humid hot box if you are not careful.

The mouse house should be as large as you can manage and preferably have two or more levels. The upper level serves as the bedroom and should have a sleeping box such as a flowerpot or empty coconut shell, while the food and water should be in the lower 'lounge/rumpus room'. A cage can be a mouse adventure playground with a little imaginative use of ropes, ladders, wooden sticks, cardboard boxes and PVC pipes and connectors.

Wood chips are commonly used for bedding, though unscented varieties are preferred to avoid respiratory problems. Cat litter made from paper products or lucerne is a suitable alternative. Avoid sawdust as it tends to be too dusty. Whatever the bedding used, it should be absorbent and changed



regularly to prevent smell and to promote hygiene. Two to three bedding changes per week are normally needed. Shredded newspaper or paper towel can be used as nesting material.

Wooden chew blocks help to keep your mice's teeth trimmed, as their teeth grow continuously.

Handling

Although mice are more timid than some of the larger rodents, they can become quite tame. If they are socialised and gently handled from a young age, pet mice will take food from your hand and allow themselves to be handled. Mice should be picked up at the base of the tail and then quickly supported underneath. Some people like their mice as pocket pets, letting them wander over them from pocket to shoulder and back.

Health

Mice kept in clean bedding with regular, good quality food, generally don't have too many health problems. Mice should be alert and active with a firm and well rounded body. The nose, eyes, ears and rear end should be clean and free from discharge. If your mouse's breathing becomes laboured and or it is sneezing or has discharge from its nose or eyes, it may have a respiratory disease. Drooling or wetness around the mouth can be a sign of dental problems. If you have any concerns about your pet mice, separate any sick mice from the others and observe them. If the problem persists, seek veterinary advice. The OurVet™ Team in our store will be happy to talk to you about any health issues in your pet mice.

Emergency Treatment during the

guarantee period: If your mouse develops diarrhoea which persists for more than 24 hours, or becomes severe, or has any other health problems during the guarantee period, please contact the team at OurVet™ in store.

Responsible pet ownership

In some areas there are restrictions on the number and types of pets you are allowed to keep. Check with your local government for further information on your rights and responsibilities.

