

Mouse

Mus musculus



CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Mice come in a variety of colors with an assortment of markings. Mice are social, alert, adaptable and extremely active rodents that have become a popular companion animal for many people.



Is a mouse the right companion animal for you?

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Check "Yes" or "No" after reading the following statements:

- I have an appropriate location and space for a mouse.
- I know that male and female mice should not be housed together.
- I will provide daily, supervised time for this mouse outside the habitat.
- I can commit to providing proper care for this mouse.
- A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for this companion animal.

If you answered, "Yes" to these statements, a mouse may be the right choice for you! Continue reading about how to care for a mouse and consult with a PETCO associate to learn more. PETCO is committed to responsible companion animal care.

Average Size 3 inches long

Life Span Up to 3 years with proper care

Diet High-quality mouse food/lab blocks; small amounts of fruits and vegetables, such as pears, grapes, strawberries, dates, raisins, sprouts and carrots
 Treats should not exceed 10% of total food intake
 Clean, fresh, filtered, chlorine-free water changed daily
 Do not feed chocolate, alcohol or caffeine as these can cause serious medical problems

Feeding Fresh food and water should always be available
 Small amounts of fruits and vegetables
 Uneaten fruits and vegetables not eaten within 24 hours should be discarded

Housing Mice acclimate well to average household temperatures; be cautious of extreme temperature changes; habitat should never be in direct sunlight or in a drafty area
 Habitat should be glass, plastic or metal, escape-proof with solid bottom; a 10-gallon aquarium with a lid makes a good home for 2 mice; it is best to provide the largest habitat possible
 2 inches of bedding should be placed in the habitat; proper bedding includes hardwood shavings or pelleted or recycled product; cedar bedding may cause harm and is not recommended
 Different types of small animals should not be housed together

- Recommended Supplies**
- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriately sized cage | <input type="checkbox"/> Ceramic food bowl | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic tubes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bedding | <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle | <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise toys |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High-quality mouse food | <input type="checkbox"/> Vitamins | <input type="checkbox"/> Chew and treat sticks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book about mice | <input type="checkbox"/> Toy house | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt lick |

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Normal Behavior and Interaction

Active during the night and rest during the day (nocturnal)
Very curious, like to burrow, hide in objects and play; easily frightened by loud noises
Chew on objects to maintain incisor teeth, which grow continuously; ensure have plenty of chew sticks available

Habitat Maintenance

Remove wet spots daily; change bedding weekly or more often, as needed
Clean the habitat and its contents once a week with mild soap and water, rinse and allow to dry completely before placing the mouse back into the habitat

Grooming and Hygiene

Mice stay clean and rarely need baths (males have a stronger odor than females); can be spot cleaned with a damp washcloth or unscented baby wipes
Consult with a veterinarian if a mouse's teeth or nails seem too long
Because all mice are potential carriers of infectious diseases, always wash your hands before and after handling your mouse and/or the habitat contents to help prevent the potential of spread of diseases.
Pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing and/or caring for a mouse and should consider not having a mouse as a pet. For more information regarding mice and disease, contact the Center for Disease Control at <http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/> and PETCO at <http://www.petco.com/pet care info/companion animal care sheets>.

Signs of a Healthy Animal

- Active, alert, and sociable
- Healthy fur
- Clear eyes
- Eats and drinks regularly
- Communicates by squeaking
- Walks normally

Common Health Issues

Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Diarrhea	Loose stools caused by poor diet, stress, internal parasites, unclean housing, or other illness.	Consult with an exotic animal veterinarian to determine cause and treatment.
Malocclusion	Overgrown teeth.	Consult with an exotic animal veterinarian to possibly have teeth trimmed regularly.
Mites	External parasite that causes mice to lose patches of hair.	Contact an exotic animal veterinarian for treatment
Tumors	Abnormal lumps.	Consult with an exotic animal veterinarian for treatment.

Red Flags

- Weight loss
- Distressed breathing
- Skin lesions
- Abnormal hair loss
- Lethargic
- Overgrown teeth
- Diarrhea or dirty bottom
- Eye or nasal discharge

If you notice any of these signs, please contact your exotic animal veterinarian.

Sources

Choosing a Small Mammal by Dennis Kelsey-Wood
Mice as a New Pet by Richard Pfarr
The ASPCA Complete Guide to Pet Care by David L. Carroll

Note: The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the above sources or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.