

CARE ♦ PETS

Animal Hospital & Wellness Center

The Best Care For Your Companion

All about Mice

Facts about mice:

- Mice are members of the rodent family.
- Mice can make good first pets and require minimal care, compared to other exotic pets.
- Mice can live 1.5 to 2 years.

Mice traits and behavior:

- Mice can be difficult to handle at first, because they are naturally timid, very small and very quick. However, a bond with their owner may be formed with daily interaction and regular gentle handling.
- Mice may bite if they are handled roughly or startled.
- Mice are territorial; males will initially fight when placed together and females with litters may defend their nests.
- Mice that have been housed alone are more likely to fight when introduced to other mice.

Habitat:

- Housing should be constructed of escape-proof wire mesh with plastic or metal solid flooring and should be large enough to allow nesting, burrowing and exercise.
- Female mice with litters require 2 to 3 times more space.
- Mice cages should be well ventilated. Air should flow freely through the cage. Keep the cage in a cool, low humidity area out of direct sunlight.
- Provide soft absorbent bedding. Recycled paper and aspen shavings work well. Additional materials may be added for nesting. (paper towels, socks, mittens) Change bedding regularly to maintain a clean environment.
- For activity, mice like to explore tubes, play with toilet paper rolls, gnaw on items and run in an exercise wheel.

Diet:

- Mouse/rodent pellets provide a complete diet.
- Small amounts of fresh fruits and vegetables may be added, as a treat.
- Fresh water should be available at all times, ideally provided via a drinking bottle or sipper tube.

Health:

CARE ♦ PETS

Animal Hospital & Wellness Center

The Best Care For Your Companion

- Regular visits to the veterinarian are recommended for your mouse. Wellness check ups are necessary to recognize potential disease and treat it early.
- A mouse's front teeth never stop growing. It is important to give them healthy things to chew on. Chew sticks and other toys should always be kept in the cage.
- Signs of a healthy mouse include teeth and claws even, not overgrown; nostrils free of discharge; bright, shiny eyes free of discharge; no sneezing, wheezing or labored breathing; no abnormal lumps or scabs; good body weight, neither thin nor obese; alert, inquisitive nature.
- Things to watch for include blood in the urine, overgrowth of front teeth, hair loss, diarrhea, lethargy, weight loss, crusts around the eyes, and sneezing.

If any of these signs are noticed, have your mouse examined by a veterinarian.