

CARESHEET: Mouse

Common Name :- Domestic Mouse

Classification/Latin name :- *Mus musculus domesticus*

Size :- approx 12cm as an adult (including tail)

Description and sexing:-

Pet mice come in a very wide range of colours and provided they are handled from youngsters aren't inclined to bite or try to jump from your hand unless frightened so they are excellent pets for children. Females are far better pets than the males as the males do smell.

Enclosure size:-

A wide range of enclosures are available for mice, please ensure if using a hamster cage that the bars are close enough together to prevent them squeezing through.

Heating and temperature:-

Mice DO NOT need to be heated, they should be kept at room temperature away from draughts. As mammals, mice maintain their own body temperature. Ventilation is needed to prevent over heating and damp within the enclosure.

Lighting and day length:-

No lighting is required other than a natural light source preferably not in direct sunlight as this may cause stress if the mice cannot hide and also risks overheating in summertime. Mice are nocturnal rodents and will rest and sleep during the day. In the evening, they will venture out of hiding to forage for food.

Humidity:-

The enclosure is best kept as dry as possible to prevent damp and otherwise unsanitary conditions.

Substrate and decoration:-

Wood shavings are a suitable substrate as it keeps the tank dry due to its' liquid retaining properties. Climbing branches and wheels will allow the mice to exercise. Cork bark can also be provided the mice will climb on and chew. A drinking bottle is the most hygienic way of providing the mice with water as they have a habit of fouling water bowls. Food dishes should be heavy so they cannot be tipped over.

Feeding and vitamins:-

Mice are best fed on a good quality mouse or rat food, hamster and gerbil foods don't contain the correct protein content for mice.

Handling:-

Mice can be lifted from the cage onto your hand by the base of their tail, if required they can also be gently restrained by the tail while sat on your hand however if they feel trapped they may panic and try to jump. Most are best allowed to walk freely on your hand, Feel free to ask for a demonstration when buying a mouse from us.