**General Information**

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| **Other Names:*** Mice/Mouse
* Fancy Mouse
* Domestic Mouse
* Mus Musculus
 | **Weight:*** 1/2 to 1 ounce

**Length:*** 3 1/2 to 4 inches

**Lifespan:*** 1 to 3 years
 | **Costs: (per Year)*** Bedding - $250
* Food - $50
* Toys - $35
* Housing - $40, once
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| **>> Mice are omnivorous, which means they eat both plant material and animal material. Often called scavengers or a combination of grazer and predator.Mice are most active during twilight, the hours of dawn and dusk, which means they are crepuscular animals. <<** | **Habitat Temperatures:*** between 65 - 80 degrees

**Habitat Humidity:** * between 30 - 70%

**Handling Your Mouse:*** scoop with both hands
* pick up with TP tube
* carry against your chest when moving
* handle when sitting or on the floor
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| **Female Colony****Females (does) are social and should be housed in groups of at least three, to complete a social hierarchy.** | **Lone Male****Males (bucks) are very territorial against each other and need to be house alone; being social, they will require companionship from their owner.**  |
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| **Growth Outline:*****Birth to 3 days**** born blind, deaf, and hairless
* pigment begins to show at 3 days

***5 to 7 days**** fur starts growing in
* ears open

***by 2 weeks**** eyes open and bubs become mobile
* attempts at solid flood begin

***3 to 4 weeks**** bubs are in the "flea" or "popcorn" stage
* very jumpy and hard to handle
* start of weaning from mom

***@ 4 to 5 weeks**** bubs are fully weaned
* males and females should be separated
 | Terms for MiceDoe- Female Pinkie- NewbornBuck- MaleBub/Pup- Baby Popcorn- AdolescentGeneral Mouse Checklist* **Aquarium (or adequate housing)**
* **Aspen or Paper bedding**
* **Hide-away / Nest Box**
* **Safe Exercise Wheel**
* **Water Bottle**
* **Healthy Food & Treats**
* **Entertainment**
* **TP Tubes**
* **Wood Chews**
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**Mouse Emergency Kit**

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| **Exotic Veterinarian*** **Picture**must be available anytime
* must see and treat small pets
 | **Towel, Water, & Soap*** **Picture**used for cleaning wounds
* use plain, basic soaps
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| **NeosporinPLUS*** **Picture**kills/prevents infections & relieves pain
* use small amounts (2x daily)
 | **Gatorade*** **Picture**contains electrolytes, which helps rehydrate
* mix with water
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| **KMR + Rice*** **Picture**good for sick mice
* mix and serve warm
 | **Cortaid*** **Picture**helps allergic reactions
* relieves itching
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| **Flour / Cornstarch*** **Picture**helps stop excessive bleeding
* Safe and painless to use
 | **Heating Pad*** **Picture**keep on lowest setting
* leave only under half the cage
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**Housing Information**

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| **Wire, Plastic, or Glass:*** preferred glass aquariums (min. 10 gallons)
* any larger size is acceptable
* wire tank expansions is available
 | **Bedding:*** preferred paper-based or aspen products
* avoid other wood type bedding
* newspaper is a good alternative
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| **Nest Box / Hide-away:*** preferred long-lasting boxes for security
* necessary for comfort, hiding, and sleeping
* provide nesting material, like toilet paper
 | **Exercise Wheels:*** preferred saucers or other solid surfaced
* confirm safety of other products before use
* clean as often as necessary
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| **>> Some material to avoid using in mouse homes includes cotton and PVC pipe which can be deadly to their health. Safe materials to try are cardboard and non-colored Popsicle sticks.****Pay attention to habitat temperature. <<** | **Fabric that is safe is polar fleece or felt. Strings to use are hemp or jute. <<****>> Habitats should never be placed in direct sunlight or in line with a draft.**  |
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| **Entertainment:*** wheels
* boxes
* ladders
 | * toys
* balls
* chews
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**Safe Products from Other Animals:**(look for safe toys designed for other small pets)* birds
* rats
* reptiles
 | **Exercise & Play****Mice are social and active creatures.Mouse teeth never stop growing so toys for them to chew are essential.Climbing is also a very fun source of entertainment so be sure to provide several levels for them to enjoy.For comfort, add hanging hammocks or pockets from wire cage bars or mesh lids on top of aquariums.**  |

**Nursery Tanks**

**For accidental pregnancies or if in need of housing a nursing female - select a 10 gallon tank for mother (and/or fostering mother/nanny) and babies. Two low placed water bottles and larger food bowls should be placed to feed all mice. Larger but secure feeling nest box to fit every member should be introduced. One hole should be the only entrance an inch above the bedding to avoid babies straying from the nest. Extra bedding material should be provided for mothers. A wheel is great for pregnant and nursing mice and provides enrichment and exercise, but should be removed towards the end of pregnancy to avoid injuries to mom or babies. In the event of a large litter, mouse family should be moved to a larger tank at 3 weeks old. This process should be done with caution and in order to insure the least amount of stress for mom, remove her willingly from the tank so she won’t see you moving her bubs.**



**Maintenance Information**

**>> Supplies to have on hand when cleaning included fresh bedding, to replace soiled bedding non-aloe, unscented wipes for cleaning tank and accessories when necessary, and tissues to dry off water.**

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| **Daily Tanks:*** spot clean (remove any soiled bedding)
* washing of wheel
* feeding/watering

**Every Two Weeks:*** tank should be dumped & scrubbed clean
* new set-up should be created for variety
 | **Weekly Tasks:*** remove & replace all bedding from tank
* wash toys with antibacterial soap and water

**Note about Male's Odor:*** only replace nest material when needed
* leave an object that smells of the buck to prevent remarking of territory
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**Enrichment**

**Mice need various forms of enriching entertainment in their tank to keep them active. There are many options to choose from. Exercise wheels are the most known source of exercise options. Mice also enjoy burrowing, which can be recreated by giving them toilet paper tubes to tunnel in. Climbing is very enriching for mice and can be created with ladders, ropes, & hammocks. Smaller toys for chewing, pushing, or carrying also provide great entertainment for mice.**



**Nutritional Information**

**>> Mice from an untracked line should be receiving about 12% protein in their daily diet. It is also recom-mended to offer occasional meat protein to their diet.**

**Base Diets**

**A base diet should be offered for the mice at all times. Mice will not overeat or gorge themselves. Fill their food dish and only refill when the level is low again. A good base diet is a premixed food you can purchase at pet stores simulates a more natural diet for mice. Another alternative is lab blocks or large pellets of ground feed. Blocks can be boring for mice to eat, but are a nice because the mouse cannot pick out certain foods from a premixed feed, skipping important parts of its diet. Whichever you choose be sure to read the ingredients. Remove sunflower seeds and peanuts from any premixed diets before giving serving them. Most mice do not need over 13% crude protein in their diets. Some of that protein should come from meat (options listed below). Other fresh foods (below) should be offered as special treats a few times a week.**



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| **Meats:** (cooked)* chicken
* turkey
* pork

**Fruits**:* bananas
* celery
* apples

**Vegetables:*** carrots
* broccoli
* peas
 | **Other:*** pasta/rice
* meal worms
* oats
* timothy hay
* scrambled eggs
* cheerios
* dog treats
* toasted bread cubes

Picture | **To Avoid****Do not give your mouse cabbage, chocolate, corn, candy, junk food, peanuts, uncooked beans, or onions.****Fresh foods should be removed if not eaten within 2 hours.****A single mouse will consume 2 tablespoons of food a day. A base food should be available at all times and fresh foods (listed) should be offered twice a week. <<** |

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| Mousey Omelet* **1 egg – whisked**
* **chopped carrot**
* **chopped broccoli**
* **cooked chicken**
* **chopped banana**
* **walnut or pecans**
* **crushed lab blocks or pellets**

Picture**Insert Image** | Picture**Insert Image****Cook slowly in a non-stick skillet.****Let set for several minutes to cool before feeding.****Serve chopped into chunks.** |



**Health Information**

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| **>> Quarantine >>** | **- a period of detention and isolation impost upon the mouse at arrival of a new location, when suspected of carrying some infectious or contagious diseases.**  | **Why Quarantine?****Any mouse showing symptoms of any illness or diseases should be removed from the same air space as any other mice. The quarantine process is to prevent the spread of sickness from one mouse to another and to observe the sickly mouse for signs.** |



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| **Overgrown Teeth:*** teeth need to be filed down naturally by providing hard food and treats to chew
* it’s easy to spot and is prevented with proper care.
 | **Eye Infections:*** any type of discharge coming from the eyes is not good
* locate the cause and wipe eyes clean gently  with water
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**Chronic Murine Pneumonia (CMP):**

* signs of CMP include sniffing, sneezing, squinting, red-brown tears, rough fur coat, and labored breathing
* anti-biotic treatment is necessary and important for curing the illness

**Mites, Lice, and Other Parasites:**

* lice are a noticeable organism on the skin, while mites cannot be seen by the naked eye
* check vets for proper topical treatment

**Worms:**

* intestinal parasites, like worms, are difficult to detect
* signs include weight loss, inactivity, and lack of appetite
* the only way to eliminate worms is to seek veterinary assistance

**Obesity:**

* mice are not known to over eat, but fat heavy diets can cause obesity
* it can also be genetically inherited with certain genes from different varieties of mice

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| **Tumors:*** tumors may be internal or external
* they can be removed in surgery by a vet
* some mice can live with tumors for months while others can be fatal in left untreated
 | **Bite Wounds:*** bleeding can be clotted with flour or cornstarch if excessive
* minor cuts can be treated with Neosporin
* if serious or infected a vet is necessary to proscribe anti-biotic medicine
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**Socialization Information**

**Coming Soon!**