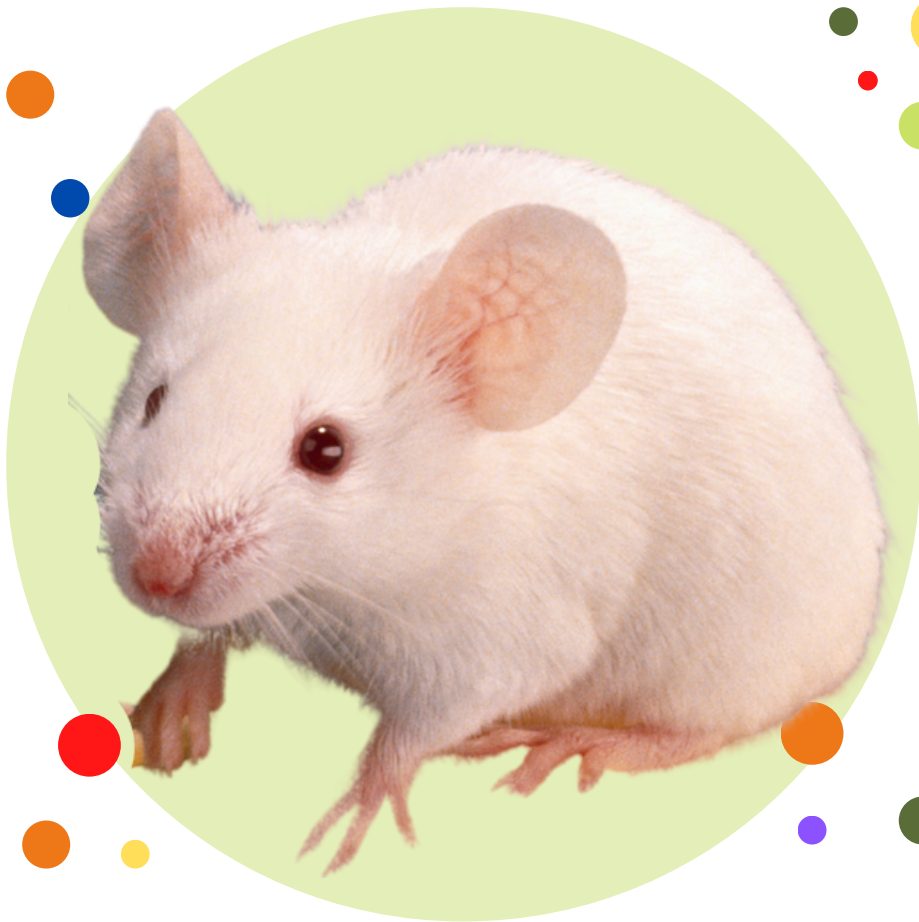


Nibbles Rodent &
Rabbit Rescue

www.nibbles.org.uk

Reg Charity No.
168657

Our Guide to



Mice

What's Awesome About Mice



Mice are adorable, active and sociable little critters and they can make excellent pets. They are mostly active at dawn and dusk and can bring their owners hours of enjoyment as they scamper about. They are inquisitive, love to climb up ropes and really enjoy new toys and enrichment items. All this activity makes them highly entertaining companions and their small size makes them incredibly cute.

As pets, mice can form strong bonds with humans and are happy to be handled and climb on to shoulders or into pockets. You should NEVER pick a mouse up by their tails, rather scoop them into your hands.



Things to Think About

Mice do have their own unique smell, as they naturally release pheromones throughout their lives. Some people will find this musky odour offensive and it's one of the most common reasons why mice become unwanted as pets. Cleaning cages won't help reduce this odour as it is naturally produced by the mice and isn't related to cages being dirty.

Mice are very sociable animals and need to live in pairs or groups. However, males MUST be neutered to live peacefully with other mice, it is possible to keep neutered males together and with females. It can be hard to find a vet capable of neutering mice, and they should only be booked in with an exotics specialist. Neutering can also be expensive and many people are unaware of the costs involved.

Mice have a relatively short life span from 1 to 2 years, although some will reach 3 years.

Diet

Mice mainly eat grains and seeds, along with fresh food items such as fruits, veg and herbs. They will also eat dried insects and small amounts of chicken.



A mix containing a high level of grains and seeds should be selected as the base of their diet.



Mice enjoy a variety of fresh veg and fresh fruits which should be offered in small amounts on a daily basis.



They also enjoy fresh herbs such as basil, parsley, coriander and dill.

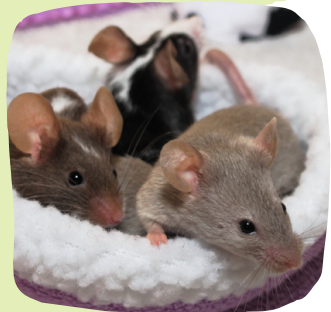


Providing dried insects, such as meal worms, is a great way to add additional protein to their diet.

Enrichment

Mice are very busy little creatures and absolutely love to have items they can climb up, over, on, through and under. They also enjoy digging and burrowing and should have a deep layer of substrate to enable them to do this. They also enjoy lots of places to snuggle and snooze with their friends. Small cardboard boxes and toilet roll tubes are also enjoyed.

It is important to ensure wheels are big enough and should be at least 20cm in diameter to allow mice to run without their backs becoming bent. We recommend providing at least two wheels for larger groups, preferably more if possible.



Housing



Despite being small mice need a lot of space and will require a cage of at least 100cm x 50cm of unbroken floor space for a pair. They will use all the space provided to them and will really enjoy all the space you can

provide. It is important to check the bar spacing before purchasing a cage to ensure it is 8mm or less to prevent mice from escaping between the gaps of the bars, especially with young mice.

Other Important Things



Deep Substrate - Mice love to burrow and will enjoy a deep layer of substrate which will allow for this natural behaviour.

Chewing - Mice can chew all wooden and plastic cages and escape, so it is important to check cages regularly. This can be prevented by using wall tiles and covering edges with metal corner strips.



Vet Care - Mice are classed as exotics within the veterinary industry and therefore owners need to carefully select a suitable vet able to treat them. We recommend Origin Vets for West Wales and Origin Vets Clinic for South Wales.