



All About the **Mouse**

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The Mouse

About Mice

While some people try and rid their home of them, other people kindly welcome them in as pets. With over 40 different varieties, mice are professionally exhibited and come in several colors. They make excellent pets, due to their small size and ease of care.

Mice Characteristics

There are mice that come in beautiful shades of pearl, sable, cinnamon, blue, and silver, just to name a few. They are very playful and can entertain themselves for hours with a tube or wheel in their cage. They do a good job of cleaning themselves, and require very little maintenance, other than feeding, providing fresh water, and cleaning their cage.

Selecting Your Mouse

A Few Words about Breeders

Choosing to work with a breeder can be a good way to go if you are searching for a particular breed of mouse, or want to ensure proper care and handling from the very beginning. Select a breeder that is reputable and can provide you with all the information you need when caring for your new mouse. There are many breeders out there that truly enjoy their mice and have great appreciation for the different varieties. Breeders can be located by searching on the Internet, or other classifieds. Pet shops can also put you in touch with breeders if they do not carry what you are looking for.

A Few Words about Pet Stores

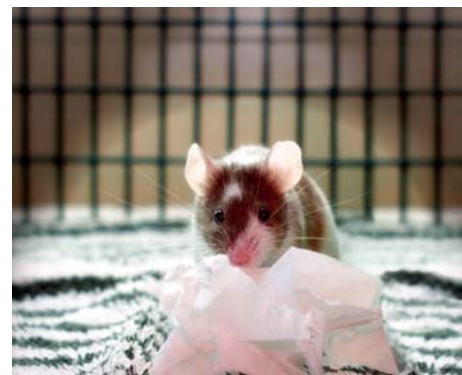
Believe it or not, mice are becoming a rare find in pet stores today. Larger rodents and other pets are often carried instead. If you are able to find a mouse for purchase in a pet store, be sure to ask for information on the age, health and history. Many pet stores will provide some sort of health guarantee for your new pet in case they should become ill after you take them home.

How to Choose Your New Mouse

Whether you are selecting a mouse from a breeder or pet store, take the time to examine at all the mice in the cage and observe their living conditions. They should be in healthy condition and housed in clean cages that are not overcrowded. Ideally, the mice should be separated, with the males in one cage and females in another. This is important, since you could end up with a female that is pregnant, and you will have more work than you had planned. The mice should be sold no younger than 5-6 weeks of age. Since the mice will be all housed together, it is best to check them all for good health, since illness can spread. The mice should be bright eyed and alert. Avoid those that have runny noses, sneezing, matted fur, or are very inactive and withdrawn.



- [Toys for Your Mouse](#)
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Through The Years

The Mouse Baby

Baby mice are called a pinky, due to their pink color at birth, or a kitten. They are born hairless, blind and deaf, making them very vulnerable, especially in the wild. Within just two weeks, the babies will have all their fur and the ability to see and hear. They are normally weaned from their mother around 5 weeks of age. Babies that are handled at a very young age will be much more tame and comfortable with humans later on.

The Mouse Adult

Mice can start to have babies around 6-8 weeks of age, and birth 8-10 in each litter. A female mouse can have close to 100 babies in one year, due to the short pregnancy (3 weeks). Mice tend to sleep mostly during the day, and will exercise and play at night (something to keep in mind if they are kept in your room).

The Mouse Senior

Mice have a fairly short lifespan, 1-3 years. They do not tend to slow their activity too much. It is quite difficult to determine the age of a mouse once they are full grown.

Medical Considerations

Mice have very few health concerns. If you notice changes in their weight, eating habits, or activity levels, it is possible that they are ill. Be sure and clean their cage thoroughly and give them fresh water frequently. Keep them away from drafty windows or extremely warm conditions.

Necessary Items

Mice can live in very small conditions. A little cage or aquarium is suitable. They will need a water bottle or dish, wood shavings for padding in their cage, and any toys to keep them busy. Mice will eat a variety of vegetables, seeds, fruit, and of course, cheese!

Popular Products for your Mouse

[Hi-Bac Litter Pan](#)

[Four Paws Flat Litter Scoop](#)

[Clip & Trim](#)

[Timothy Hay Tidbits](#)

[Mouse Healthy Bits](#)

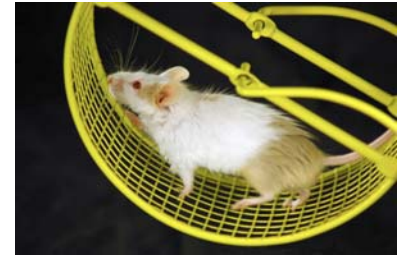
[Clean Cage Safe Deodorizer](#)

[Squeaky Clean Shampoo](#)

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You'll need these basics before your Mouse comes home. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

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