



# Mouse Care

Mice are great pets: they are friendly, smart and are fun to watch. While caring for a mouse isn't difficult, it does help to have a basic understanding of what you need to do to keep your mouse happy and healthy.



## MICE

Pet mice come in a variety of colours and even different hair types. These entertaining little creatures are inexpensive and easy to care for. They are very clean animals and spend lots of time grooming themselves. Mice are the smallest mammal ever to be domesticated and the breeding of mice is a very ancient hobby (thought to date back to the 1300's in China). The typical mouse lifespan is 1 to 2 years.

## HABITAT



There is a large selection of cages and starter kits for you to choose from for your pet mouse. You should choose a cage specific for mice that is spacious, safe, and easy to clean, or choose a spacious glass aquarium habitat with a secure wire mesh cover. Create a "natural" habitat by connecting multiple units to each other using mazes, tubes, tunnels, and hideaways. Include a corner toilet, a silent exercise wheel, a chew-proof bowl, and a water bottle. The cage and accessories should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected weekly, with a mild bleach and water solution, and rinsed well. Do not put the cage in bright light and maintain a consistent room temperature of 20 to 22°C (68 to 75°F). Limit or deny access to your mouse by other pets, as the hunting instinct can be very strong in even the tamest of pets.

### MICE ARE ESCAPE ARTISTS!

Keep them safe in a pet carrier when cleaning their cage!

## COMFORTABLE BEDDING

Bedding provides a secure substrate that encourages burrowing and is comfortable for sleeping and nesting. The ideal bedding is absorbent, dust-free and provides optimal hygienic conditions. Do not use bedding that contains scented oils or chemicals which can be harmful to the respiratory system of your pet mouse. Make sure to provide a deep layer in the cage because mice love to burrow. You can also provide your mouse with soft cotton fluff or natural nesting material to make a cozy, warm bed in a corner of the cage. Bedding should be completely changed at least once a week to eliminate odors, fungus and bacteria and maintain a healthy environment.

**Primarily nocturnal**  
with crepuscular behaviors

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**Activity level:**

**Noise level:**

**Social\*:**

**Maintenance:**

\*Some individuals may be more agitated & nervous.



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**Living World Green  
Naturals Nesting Material & Bed**  
Perfect nesting & resting spot. Safe to chew

**Living World Green  
Ultra Comfort Premium Bedding**  
No additives or colorants, safe & natural, 100% aspen.

## BALANCED AND ENRICHED DIET

Mice have voracious appetites. They are omnivores and eat around 15 to 20 times per day, and in the wild they build their homes near places that have readily accessible food sources which consist of a mix of seeds, plants and insects. The best diet for your pet mouse is one that includes a quality extruded pellet or quality seed-based food, small amounts of fresh fruits, vegetables, or herbs.

Your mouse deserves love and affection, and of course a treat every now and again. After all, the odd treat can help you develop a bond with your mouse and often assists with training. It is important to remember that treats should be given sparingly and in addition to a balanced diet. A safe way to provide some variety is by alternating fresh treats like fruits and vegetables with protein-packed treats like mealworms or insects and packaged treats like herbs, sticks, drops and chews.

**Living World Green  
GOURMET TOPPERS**  
Sprinkle on top of hay or food to add variety and encourage foraging or simply serve alone as a treat.



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## SUPPLEMENTS

The use of a salt lick and mineral stone is great for providing salt, calcium, and essential minerals. It encourages gnawing which helps to keep teeth trim and healthy too!

### **Living World MINERAL BLOCKS**

are not your everyday boring calcium supplements; they are studded with delicious flavor tidbits.



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## FRESH WATER

Of course, fresh water every day is very important too. A water bottle will keep the water clean and avoid spilling. Water bottles also mimic how mice drink in the wild (drops of dew off plants and grass). It is a good idea to clean the bottle daily and disinfect the bottle once a week to avoid bacteria build up. Proper water flow should be checked frequently too.



## OTHER TIPS ON OWNING A MOUSE

Activities should include time in an exercise ball, supervised time out of cage with caretaker, foraging toys, tunnels & tubes.

Wooden homes and play areas are a great way to give your mouse something to play in and satisfy their need to chew. Chewing is a natural behaviour that helps keep their teeth healthy and stops them from getting overgrown. It also gives your mouse something to do and helps to relieve boredom. Mice love to shred, chew and gnaw on things like alfalfa and oat hay, cardboard, corn husks, elk antlers, loofah, seagrass and natural untreated softwood sticks.

**Give your mouse  
24 HOURS  
to adjust to his new  
habitat when you first  
bring him home!**

Mice are very curious, fast, social and are entertaining to watch as they play in and explore their cage. Handle your pet gently and make sure others do so as well. Allow him to climb onto your hand when you want to bring him out of the cage and be patient. As mice can be shy and are very quick, you may want to gently hold your mouse by the base of his tail as he sits in your hand. Once tame, your mouse will learn to take treats from your hand and will climb onto your hand.

Mice are very social animals and as such will do well when living with others from the same colony in a single sex group. Two or more females will get along well, however males can be territorial and will often fight if kept together. Best to introduce while young. If keeping multiple mice, a larger habitat is essential and each mouse will require their own wheel, water bottle and food dish. Avoid housing male and female mice together as unwanted pregnancies will occur. Do not house mice with rats or other rodents.



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### **Living World Green Seagrass Toys**

Provides mental and physical activity. Helps keep teeth trim and healthy. 100% napier grass





# To do list:

## MOUSE CARE

### MONDAY

- Clean and refill the water bottle. Check the food bowl and refill as needed.
- Spot clean cage; remove any wet bedding and droppings.
- Daily supervised playtime outside of the cage (at least 30 minutes).
- Health check and note anything unusual.

### TUESDAY

- Clean and refill the water bottle. Check the food bowl and refill as needed.
- Offer a small amount of washed and chopped fresh fruit or vegetables as a treat.
- Spot clean cage; remove any wet bedding and droppings.
- Daily supervised playtime outside of the cage (at least 30 minutes).
- Health check and note anything unusual.

### WEDNESDAY

- Clean and refill the water bottle. Check the food bowl and refill as needed.
- Completely change all bedding in your mouse's cage and spot clean any dirty corners in the cage.
- Daily supervised playtime outside of the cage (at least 30 minutes).
- Health check and note anything unusual.

### THURSDAY

- Clean and refill the water bottle. Check the food bowl and refill as needed.
- Spot clean cage; remove any wet bedding and droppings.
- Daily supervised playtime outside of the cage (at least 30 minutes).
- Health check and note anything unusual.

### FRIDAY

- Clean and refill the water bottle. Check the food bowl and refill as needed.
- Offer a small amount of washed and chopped fresh fruit or vegetables as a treat.
- Spot clean cage; remove any wet bedding and droppings.
- Daily supervised playtime outside of the cage (at least 30 minutes).
- Health check and note anything unusual.

### SATURDAY

- Place your mouse in a secure place (such as a pet carrier or his exercise ball) and thoroughly clean and disinfect the cage and all accessories with a mild bleach and water solution. Be sure to rinse everything well. Replace all bedding and give fresh food and water.
- Daily supervised playtime outside of the cage (at least 30 minutes).
- Health check and note anything unusual.
- Weekly weigh in - chart your mouse's weight.

### SUNDAY

- Clean and refill the water bottle. Check the food bowl and refill as needed.
- Spot clean cage; remove any wet bedding and droppings.
- Daily supervised playtime outside of the cage (at least 30 minutes).
- Health check and note anything unusual.

