

ADOPTION RESOURCES FOR YOUR NEW MOUSE

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Congratulations on Your Mouse Adoption



THE BASICS

Food: Commercial mouse food is available at most pet supply stores and will provide a nutritionally balanced diet for your mouse. You can supplement your mouse's diet with fresh foods like fruit, vegetables, nuts (NO peanuts), seeds, grains, hard-boiled eggs, and cooked meat (no spices). Use a sturdy crockery bowl that can't be tipped over and is easy to clean.

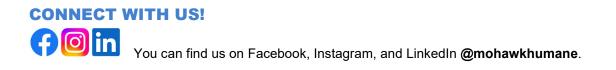
A salt lick is recommended to prevent mineral deficiencies. Hang it from the side of the cage to prevent contamination from feces and urine.

Water: Keep fresh water available in a suspended "licker" water bottle. Your mouse should have access to fresh water at all times.

Housing: Mice need a cage that is at least 18 inches long by 12 inches wide and 12 inches high. If you have more than one mouse, increase the floor area by half a square foot per additional animal. If a wire cage is used, it should be no wider than one-fourth inch to prevent escape. A cage with a solid floor works best, covered with shredded newspaper or commercial bedding.

Never use pine or cedar. These materials can irritate your mouse's respiratory system. Be sure to place the cage away from drafts and direct sunlight. Make sure your cage closes securely or your aquarium has a tight-fitting screen cover to prevent your mouse from escaping.

Provide a box for sleeping and plenty of nesting material, like unscented tissue or professional bedding material. Provide chewing blocks and paper towel tubes for playing and hiding.



General Mouse Information

KEEPING YOUR MOUSE HEALTHY

The average life span of a mouse is two to three years.

Even though mice are very clean and spend a great deal of time grooming themselves, they tend to have a unique scent.

Mice are extremely active and need a solid exercise wheel and/or supervised time out of the cage to prevent cage paralysis.

Because your mice's teeth grow continuously, it's essential that you provide them with hard things to gnaw on to prevent their teeth from growing too long. Untreated hardwood, dog biscuits, and hard bread crusts are some suggested items.



TYPICAL MOUSE BEHAVIOR

When picking up your mouse, approach them slowly and be careful not to startle them. Curl one hand over their body with your fingers and thumb around their abdomen. Hold your mouse securely, but don't squeeze. You should carry your mouse in your cupped hand with the other hand over it for protection.

The more you handle your mouse, the friendlier and tamer they will be.

If you have children, be sure to supervise them whenever they handle the mouse. Never allow them to pick the mouse up by their tail or let their body hang.

Mice are social creatures and do poorly when isolated. If you're not able to spend much time with your mouse, you'll want to get a companion for them. Littermates of the same sex tend to get along the best. Be careful when introducing adults, especially males, because they can be aggressive toward each other. In order to prevent unwanted litters, you'll want to make sure your mice are the same sex.