

## Home Care for Mice

The domestic mouse can come in a variety of coat colors and textures. They typically live 1-3 years. They are curious animals that tend to be active at various times of the day.

### Food and Water

- A commercial pelleted diet or rodent block should be offered free choice. Avoid diets with seeds and dried fruit in the mix, as they are high in fat and sugars, but low in protein, calcium, and vitamin E.
  - “Oxbow Mouse and Young Rat” diet is a balanced high quality diet option
- Healthy treat options include: fresh vegetables or fruit, or unsweetened cereal
- Fresh water should always be available in a bottle or spill-proof bowl and changed daily.

### Caging and Bedding

- Cages should open wire bar sides and have a flat bottom (no wire) to prevent foot injuries. Aquarium or tank style cages should be avoided due to poor air circulation.
  - Cage bars must be close enough together so that the mouse can not escape
- Bedding should be paper pulp (such as Carefresh) or shredded paper. Wood chips/shavings are not recommended because they can cause eye and airway irritation.
- Mice are social and generally do not fight when raised together from a young age. Males tend to fight more often than females. Do not house males and females together, as they breed quickly and produce large litters.

### Enrichment

- Toys that mice can use to hide or burrow in are very popular; options include boxes, paper bags, shredded paper, and tubes
- Items to chew, such as wood blocks, paper towel rolls, or toilet paper tubes should be provided
- A running wheel should be provided for exercise

### Handling

Always use two hands to pick up your mouse. Mice may bite when startled. Do not pick up a mouse by the tail, as this can result in serious injury.

*If your mouse is exhibiting sneezing, coughing, decreased appetite, lethargy, hair loss, or any other concerning changes in behavior, contact a veterinarian to schedule an evaluation as soon as possible.*