

SHOPPING LIST:

- ✗ information leaflet about mice
- large cage
- nest box
- heavy feeding bowl
- water bottle
- floor covering (e.g. soft wood granules, straw or natural bedding)
- nest building material (fully digestible hamster bedding)
- hay (rich in herbs, dry, dust-free)
- dried herbs
- mouse food (premium food)
- snack ball
- mineral stone, salt lick
- vitamin supplements
- wood for gnawing on (hardwood gnawing block, wicker bridge)
- tubes and tunnels
- root for climbing
- nibble sticks
- disinfectant/detergent for cleaning the cage
- book about mice

For more tips and further information on mice visit our website at: www.maxizoo.ie

DO I LIKE COMPANY?

Mice are very sociable animals and should always be kept with other mice or a partner at the very least. To avoid breeding it is best to just keep animals of the same sex together.

A strict hierarchy is observed within a community of mice and a new mouse will not be allowed to invade their territory. For this reason, the integration of adult animals should always take place in a new, neutral cage. It is much easier for young mice to get used to one another.

Mice can become pregnant from a very young age (6 weeks) so babies should be separated according to sex in good time.

WHAT DO I LIKE TO EAT?

Mice need a versatile mixture of grain, animal protein and fresh food. An ideal combination is mouse food (premium food), fresh hay and herbs. This is supplemented with fresh fruit and vegetables. Mealworm or a hard-boiled egg are also recommended.

Non-toxic pieces of wood (e.g. gnawing blocks) should be provided to satisfy the need to gnaw.



Stale food must always be removed from the cage immediately. Fresh water must be available at all times since mice are very susceptible to dehydration. A drip feed bottle for rodents is the perfect solution, because water bowls need to be filled up constantly.



My mouse

Everything you need to know about mice as pets.



Everything for your pet

www.maxizoo.ie

AM I THE RIGHT PET FOR YOU?

Mice are very easy pets. There are many different varieties and colours. Mice do not cost a lot to look after, however they are very lively so you should get your new rodent the most interesting cage that you can.

Most importantly, male mice have a very strong, individual odour and are therefore not suitable for people with a sensitive sense of smell. Although mice are nocturnal, when kept as pets, they only sleep by the hour during the day.

The average life expectancy of a mouse is 2 –2.5 years

WHERE DO I ORIGINATE FROM?

The history of the mouse as a pet goes back a very long way. Mice were already being bred in China in 1100 BC and are still favourites for pets today. The popular coloured mouse is a direct descendant of the grey house mouse, whose presence on all continents is really quite unlike that of almost any other mammal.



WHERE'S THE BEST PLACE FOR ME TO LIVE?

The mouse's new home should be as big as possible; our Maxi zoo staff are more than happy to give you advice on creating a suitable home for your mice. Mice love to be active and so it is very important to have a cage with a three-dimensional design, i.e. different levels to provide climbing opportunities, ropes, roots, tubes etc. all go down very well. Of course, no home should be without a nest box. If the cage does have a second level then it must be made of plastic or wood. Steel grating should not be used under any circumstances.

HEALTH CHECKLIST

A healthy mouse

- moves nimbly and quickly,
- has clean fur especially around the nose, mouth, eyes and anus area,
- has a thick coat without any encrustations,
- breathes without making an audible noise,
- has a straight back,
- is uninjured and has no wounds.



The interior layout should be changed regularly so that the animals can satisfy their natural urge to explore.

The cage must be thoroughly cleaned at least once a week. Droppings and urine are to be disposed of daily.

Glass containers, aquariums or terrariums are only suitable as an alternative to a cage if they have sufficient ventilation.

Heat from direct sun or a radiator, as well as draughts, high humidity and cigarette smoke are to be avoided at all costs, since they can cause substantial harm to the animal's health.

Dust-free sawdust, hay, straw or natural bedding are all suitable for the floor of the cage. Carpenter's sawdust is not suitable, since in most cases it contains impurities and dust.

Fully digestible hamster bedding is excellent for nest building.

Flat, heavy ceramic or earthenware bowls are the most suitable for using as food bowls, since plastic bowls will be gnawed away to the point of destruction sooner or later.

KEEP ME FIT AND HEALTHY

A healthy mouse is very active, playful and curious, has thick, gleaming fur, large eyes and a clean nose. Symptoms that the mouse is unwell include loss of appetite, diarrhoea, apathy, bristly hair and mucus or crust around the eyes or nose. If you suspect that your mouse is unwell take it to a vet immediately.

A further little tip about mice known as "dancing mice":

Dancing mice are mice with a genetic defect that results in the loss of the sense of balance. The mice are not "dancing" but helplessly lurching out of control all over the place. Dancing mice are a problem breed and should not be bought or kept under any circumstance.

HOW I SHOULD BE HANDLED?

Let your new mouse get used to its surroundings for a few days before you start to try and tame it. Speak to it and put your hand carefully into its cage so that it can get used to your smell. If you are holding something to nibble (it should be a special, rodent treat, like those available at Maxi zoo) your hand will be of much greater interest.

The mouse may only be held by the tail for short periods of time (and only at the tip of the tail) but should never be carried around like this. It is best to form a hollow with your hand and place the mouse inside it. Be very careful, for if it jumps out it can seriously injure itself.

REPRODUCTION

1. Mice have already reached sexually maturity at 4 weeks.
2. The size of the litter can be from 4-8 babies.
3. The gestation period is 3 weeks.
4. Baby mice can be separated from the mother at 3 weeks.

