



# WEIRD 'N' WONDERFUL

Pets and reptiles

## Introduction Guide To The Care Of

### Mice

**Scientific Name:** *Mus musculus*

**Life Span:** 1-3 years on average, though longer is possible

**Size:** 3.5 inches, not including tail

**Appearance:** A mouse (plural: mice) is a small mammal belonging to the order of rodents, characteristically having a pointed snout, small rounded ears, and a long naked or almost hairless tail. The best known mouse species is the common house mouse (*Mus musculus*).

**Temperament and Handling:** Mice need their own kind as company and love to groom and play with each other. Do not mix mice with pet rats or other rodents, as they may be attacked and eaten. It is usually safe to mix female mice up to the age of about 12 weeks even if they are from different litters. Males should ideally be from the same litter and will often fight if separated for more than a few hours and then re-introduced. Although mice are usually friendly and rarely bite, some may be naturally more timid than others. Start by placing your hand quietly in the cage, holding a treat such as a few sunflower seeds. To pick up a mouse, hold the base – not the tip – of its tail gently but firmly, then lift the back end gently and slide your hand under the mouse's body. Children should not handle mice or any other pets unless supervised. As they are very small and quick mice may be difficult for small children who want a pet they can handle. Male mice have quite a strong smell so need regular cleaning

**Housing:** Mice acclimate well to average household temperatures, not to exceed 80°F; be cautious of extreme temperature changes. The habitat should never be in direct sunlight or in a drafty area. Habitat should be plastic, metal or glass, escape proof with solid bottom; there should be plenty of room for the hamster to exercise and play. It is best to provide the largest habitat possible. 1-2 inches of bedding should be placed in the habitat; proper bedding includes high quality paper bedding, crumbled paper bedding, or hardwood shavings. Cedar-based products are not recommended. Mice can be kept in same-sex pairs that have been raised together. Different types of small animals should not be housed together.

**Heating and Lighting:** (see above)



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**Feeding:** A well-balanced mouse diet consists of: High-quality mouse food, or blocks and limited amounts of grains, vegetables and fruits. Clean, fresh, filtered, chlorine-free water, changed daily. Do not feed chocolate, caffeine or alcohol as these can cause serious medical conditions. Avoid sugar and high fat treats. Things to remember when feeding your mouse: Fresh food and water

should always be available. Limited amounts of grains, vegetables and fruits can be given daily. Vegetables and fruits not eaten within 24 hours should be discarded. Remember, treats should not exceed 10% of total food intake.

Please note that this is only an introductory guide based on our opinions and experience, we advise you to continually research and learn as much as possible from as many sources as you can, every animal is different and new care and information is always being developed and found 😊