

CARING FOR YOUR

FANCY MICE

**PET CARE
TRUST**



We care about pet care

Fancy mice have traditionally been looked upon as a school child's first pet. They are relatively inexpensive to house and feed, take up very little space, are clean and easily tamed. They are natural acrobats and suffer from very few ailments. All over the world mouse fanciers compete to produce ever more exotic strains and colours although the white variety is still a top favourite.

HOUSING

A plastic or metal cage with a glass front and a removable base tray is best. If you keep a single mouse be prepared to give it lots of your time as mice need stimulation and like company. Two females will live happily together. If you prefer a mate pair be prepared for a population explosion as litters of up to sixteen young are not unusual. Young mice can be easily sexed as by the third week the nipples are clearly visible in the still hairless females. An all glass aquarium is also suitable provided it has a secured and well-ventilated lid. Food bowls should be heavy and non-chewable and water bottles easily accessible. Add a nest, above floor level, some ladders or climbing frames and some hiding places. Very fine shavings or peat makes a good floor covering. Inspect the cage daily and remove soiled litter and uneaten food. Once a week you should have a thorough house clean. Male mice have a strong odour and you can use a mild disinfectant spray that is for small animals.

HANDLING

As with all small animals this must be done gently and with confidence. Pick up the mouse by holding the base of the tail firmly between thumb and forefinger and then lifting it into your cupped hand. Do not grip tightly or try to lift by the tail end. Alternatively a hollow tube or small glass jam jar can be used to scoop up the animal until confidence is gained.

FEEDING

Fancy Mice are omnivorous; they will eat anything, but everything they want to eat may not be good for them. Your Pet Shop will be able to supply you with a mixture of grains or pellets which has been carefully formulated or you can make up a mixture of oats, puppy biscuit and sunflower seeds. Cheese should only be given as a treat and green food should be strictly limited.

HEATING

Although house mice can cope with extremes of temperature Fancy Mice must be kept at room temperature (60°F 15°C) and never in direct sunlight or in a draught.

WATER

Fresh clean drinking water must always be available. It should be given in a gravity-fed bottle.

GENERAL CARE

Food dishes and water bottles should be cleaned and refilled each day. Overgrown teeth can be prevented by providing hard chewing material. If the problem does occur they can be clipped back by a skilled operator or your veterinary surgeon.

HEALTH

Fancy Mice have a natural life span of eighteen months to two years and with good care will suffer from few ailments. Healthy mice are active and inquisitive and any change in behaviour can be a warning signal that all is not well. Do not attempt to diagnose or treat an illness yourself but consult your vet. It could be something quite simple and a great deal can be done for small animals.

SHOWING FANCY MICE

As long ago as the 17th Century Fancy Mice were being shown in Japan. This is now a worldwide hobby and almost every town has a Fancy Mouse Club. Your local library will be able to give you the address of the Secretary. This leaflet gives you a basic introduction only to keeping Fancy Mice. Your pet shop can recommend a book that will give you much more information.

SHOPPING LIST

Cage, Food, Food Dish, Water Bottle, Bottle Brush, Bedding, Nest Box, Litter and Toys.

This leaflet gives basic guidelines only. It is not intended to be a substitute for a good book on Fancy Mice. Your pet shop will be pleased to show you their range.

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