

HOUSE MOUSE

(*Mus musculus*)



Natural history

The most common pet mouse is the standard white laboratory mouse, although pet mice are not as inbred as some strains of lab mice.

Taxonomy

Class Mammalia

Order Rodentia

Suborder Myomorpha

Family Cricetidae

Mice belong to the same taxonomic family as hamsters and gerbils.

Breeds

The standard white lab mouse is most commonly seen, but different colors and varieties are entering the pet trade such as satin or spotted.

Diet

The bulk of the diet should consist of a rodent block or pellet that contains a minimum crude protein content of 16% and 4-5% fat. Seed-based diets promote obesity and should be avoided.

Husbandry

Mice are nocturnal and crepuscular. Females or mixed pairs do well together, but male mice tend to fight. Provide the largest cage possible made of stainless steel, durable plastic, or wire. Provide ample nesting material and deep bedding such as aspen shavings or recycled paper product. Provide enrichment in the form of tunnels, exercise wheels, nest boxes, and items to chew on old paper towel rolls or toilet paper tubes.

Normal physiologic values

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|
| Temperature | 98.8°F | 37.1°C |
| Pulse | 400-700 | |
| Respiration | 90-200 | |
| Adult Male Body Weight | 20-40 g | The average mouse weighs about 30 grams. |
| Adult Female Body Weight | 22-63 g | Male mice are often twice the size of females. |
| Mean life span | 1-3 years | |
| Puberty | 6 weeks | |

Mouse

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--|
| Sexual maturity | 50-60 days | varies among strains |
| Gestation | 19-21 days | |
| Litter size | 10 to 12 | varies among strains younger females tend to have smaller litters |
| Weaning | 18-21 days | |
| Target environmental temperature: | 50-68°F | or 10-20°C |
| Target relative humidity: | | 45-55% |
| Water intake | 5-8ml/day | |

Anatomy/ Physiology

Dental formula: Incisor 1/1 Canine 0/0 Premolar 0/0 Molar 3/3
The incisors are open-rooted and continuously growing.
The stomach consists of a non-glandular forestomach and a glandular stomach.

Restraint

Although mice rarely bite normally, they may bite when handled.
Mice are also quick to jump. Manually restrain mice by scruffing the neck.

Venipuncture

The lateral tail vein may be used to collect small volumes of blood.

Important medical conditions

Mammary adenocarcinoma
Mange
Mycoplasmosis
Obesity
Sendai virus

Preventive medicine

Annual physical examination

References and further reading

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