



Canobie Lake Veterinary Hospital
Melissa Magnuson D.V.M
603-898-8982

Introduction to Pet Mouse Care

Behavior

Mice are timid, social, territorial animals that require gentle handling. They are very active and are known to be escape artists. Males housed together may fight with each other at first to establish dominance. Males and females should not be housed together unless breeding is intended. Mice may bite when handled roughly or startled.

Caging

Cages for mice may be purchased at any pet supply store. Enclosure size depends on the number of animals. Each mouse should have adequate living and exercise space. Housing should be large enough to accommodate an exercise wheel, a nest area, and a feeding area. Many pet supply stores have cages with tunnel attachments for the mice to climb through.

Bedding

Bedding can be shredded paper or newspaper or composite recycled paper pellets. Eco-Bedding brand (looks like crinkled brown paper) is an excellent choice. Cedar shavings should NOT be used because they can irritate the skin and cause allergies. Tissue paper, paper towels, and cardboard tissue rolls can all be placed in the enclosure to serve as bedding material and hiding places. All bedding should be changed at least twice weekly and the cage washed with warm water and a mild detergent. If this is not done, ammonia from the urine builds up in the cage and leads to chronic respiratory problems. If you can smell the urine in the cage (even close up), the bedding needs to be changed.

Diet

We recommend a high quality commercial rodent food which comes in large pellets. Seed-based box diets are not nutritionally adequate. Vegetables can be given as treats but

are not necessary if you are using a high quality rodent food. Rodent pellets should be available at all times.

Fresh, clean water should be available at all times. Thick ceramic bowls or sipper bottles are both good choices. If you use a sipper bottle, please check it daily to be sure it is not blocked.

Preventive Care

In order to keep your mice healthy, sanitary housing conditions are **VERY IMPORTANT**. Ammonia from urine quickly builds up and can cause chronic respiratory illness if the bedding is not replaced frequently (2 or more times a week.)

Any change in behavior or appetite could indicate a problem. Please contact as soon as you notice anything unusual. The sooner we are aware of a problem, the better our chances are of treating it effectively.