



# LWAS Animal Care Sheets

## Fancy Mouse



**Mice are tiny rodents that are quick and active. They love to dig, burrow and chew!**

### Quick Facts

**Average size:** 30grams    **Diet:** Block food, seed mix    **Handling:** intermediate

**Average Lifespan:** 2-4 years    **Enclosure:** Tank, bin or cage

### Housing

**Size:** 10gal minimum for a single mouse, with an extra 5gal per additional mouse. Wire cages need to have bar spacing 1/4" or less. Lids must be a strong metal mesh, not a fine metal screen because mice can chew through screen. Lids that do not fit securely can be secured with reptile tank clips. Containment is key with mice!

**Population:** Females can live in groups of 2+ and do best with siblings together from birth. Males tend to be territorial and fight so should be housed singly. Sexing mice is possibly the most important part of care as they will have dozens of babies before you know it!

**Substrate:** Paper-based bedding is best as wood beddings can cause injuries and respiratory issues. Bedding should be deep enough to hold a burrow, at least a few inches, but they will appreciate as deep of a bedding as you give them! Bedding should be changed when you start to notice a stinky smell, 1x weekly for groups and every 1-2 weeks for singles.

**Furniture:** Mice need a water bottle, and a food bowl. They also really enjoy having a wheel to run on. Wheels should be big enough so the mouse's back does not arch when running. cardboard boxes and tubes make great furniture for mice, especially because they chew on everything and go to the bathroom on everything, they can be thrown away and replaced when dirty. They can also be used to help make burrows. Plastic, ceramic and wood huts are also fine, but wood tends to be harder to keep clean.

**Temperature/Humidity:** Mice prefer medium temperatures, between 69-79 degrees. Mammal cages should always be kept out of direct sunlight.

### Handling

Mice are very quick and hyper, especially when they are young. They will usually not sit still in your hand so it is best to handle them inside their enclosure or in a safe contained area like a bathtub, plastic storage bin, or playpen. Scooping them into a cup can be a good way to move them.

Acclimate mice to your hands by offering a treat from the hand every day. They may be nervous at first but will soon associate your hands with treats and happiness!

As they get older, mice should get a little more calm and slow and be easier to handle.

### Diet

Mice are omnivores and can eat lots of different foods! We like to feed both a "rodent block" like oxbow or Mazuri, and also a seed mix for variety and fun. Mice can have tiny bits of fruits, veggies and cereals for a treat but stay away from anything with spices/alliums.