

# Mice

## FACTSHEET

All animals need the following five things to be happy and healthy: a comfortable home, suitable diet, companionship, normal behaviour and vet care.

Find out how you can care for mice by using the information below.



### HOME

Animals need a comfortable home with enough space to exercise.

Although mice are very small they love to explore and a small house just won't do. The ideal size for a mouse or a small group of mice is 80cm wide by 50cm deep by 35cm high.



### DIET

Animals need a healthy diet and access to fresh water at all times.

Mice should be fed a good quality dry mix mouse food and they will enjoy finding their food scattered around their home and their toys, rather than having it in a food bowl waiting for them.



### COMPANIONSHIP

Some animals need friends of their own kind, some would rather live by themselves

Girl mice enjoy having a mouse friend to share their home with – they will often snuggle up together to sleep in a pair or a group and spend time grooming each other.

Unfortunately, often boys can fight each other though so it's probably best to keep him on his own where he can be happier.



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## NORMAL BEHAVIOUR

Animals need exciting things to do and space to behave normally.

- ♥ Mice are extremely energetic and agile – they enjoy running across ropes and climbing up their toys.
- ♥ Enrichment is very important to keep them fit, healthy and happy so try giving them some old children's toys or even a kitchen roll tube to scurry through or a twig from an apple or willow tree to climb up.



## VET CARE

Animals need to be kept healthy and see the vet if they are sick or injured.

Mice are generally quite healthy pets so just watch out for changes in the way your mice behave and take them to the vet if you are worried.

If mice are kept on sawdust they can suffer from parasites – tiny creatures who crawl into their fur and make them itchy so try using shredded paper instead and watch out for them losing their fur, having bad dandruff or scabs on their ears and nose. If you see any of these, take your mouse to the vets.



## WHY NOT MAKE?

...your own mouse food?

**Mix together:** 6 scoops of rabbit/ rat muesli, ½ scoop dog biscuits, a handful of healthy seeds, nuts, dried fruit or dried noodles, 3 scoops of healthy, low sugar breakfast cereal like cheerios and half a scoop of uncooked wholemeal pasta.