

Animal Care Handouts: Mice

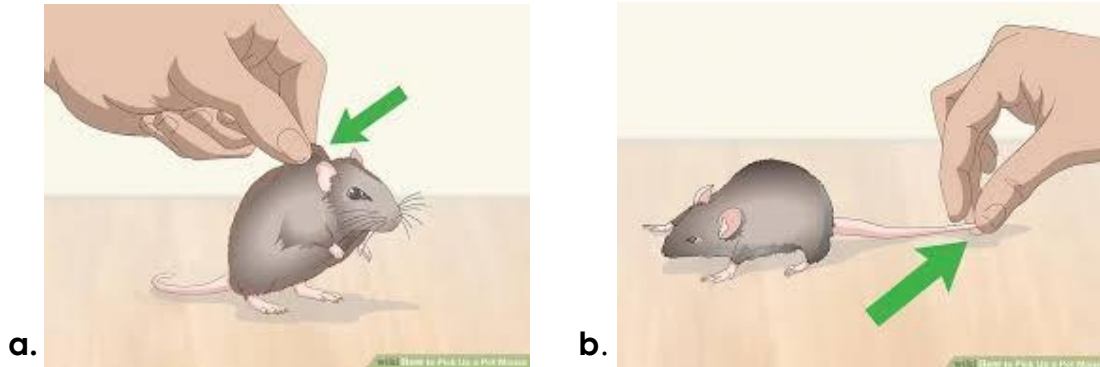
The following topics in this animal care guide are as follows:

- Mice Handling & Care
- Mice Feeding
- Mice Housing
- Mice Enrichment

How NOT to Handle a Mouse

Mice are very fragile little creatures so you want to be very careful while handling and picking them up.

EXAMPLES:



Picture a: Scruffing can work for some animals but for a mouse it could hurt their necks/spines. Scruffing could also make the mouse panic and might make them accidentally hurt themselves or they could become defensive and try to bite you to get away.

Picture b: Picking up a mouse by the tail could damage the tail/spine or make the mouse panic by accidentally hurting himself while trying to get away or bite for self-defense to get away.



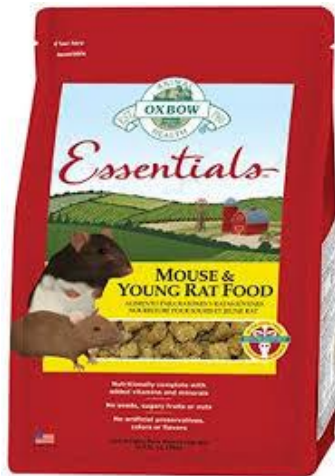
To see the proper and safer way to pick up/ handle mice, please look at the handout called, “Proper ways to handle a Mouse” for reference.

Feeding Chart for Mice: Pellets

Pellets should be done twice a day AM & PM

The amount depends on the size, age and how many Mice you have.

Examples of pellets:



OXBOW offers a few different kind of pellets that you can use.

You can also use rat & hamster food for Mice as well. Just make sure it doesn't have too many grains or other more junky treats in it. Sometimes those make Mice picky on what they want to eat and could become obese or starve from lack of interest in other foods.


You should also look for 16% protein content and 4-5% fat content in their pellets.

Feeding tip: If you have multiple Mice in one cage, make sure to have extra food and water bowls throughout the cage so they don't feel the need to fight over food or water resources.

"RSPCA Knowledgebase." RSPCA Knowledgebase, 9 Nov. 2018, kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/what-should-i-feed-my-pet-mouse/#mouse-feeding-guide.

Feeding Chart for Mice: Veggies & Fruits

PLEASE always do research before giving your Mouse/Mice a new veggie or fruit!

VEGGIES	FRUITS
BROCCOLI	APPLE (Make sure to remove the seeds before feeding)
BEANS	BERRIES
BRUSSEL SPROUTS	DRIED BANANAS
CABBAGE	PEARS
CARROTS	PEACHES
CAULIFLOWER	MELON
CHICORY	RED GRAPES
CUCUMBERS	TOMATOS
CELERY	
PARSLEY	CITRUS FRUITS ARE <u>UNSAFE</u> FOR MICE EXS: Oranges, Lemons, Grapefruits..
SWEET PEPPERS	*This is not a complete list of all the veggies and fruits mice can have, but these are the most common available.

Tip: When you are introducing new veggies or fruits to your Mouse/Mice. Give them small portions to figure out what they like!

"RSPCA Knowledgebase." *RSPCA Knowledgebase*, 9 Nov. 2018, kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/what-should-i-feed-my-pet-mouse/#mouse-feeding-guid www.pdsa.org.uk/taking-care-of-your-pet/looking-after-your-pet/small-pets/feeding-your-mice.

Recommended Housing for Mice

LARGER THE BETTER!

Aquariums, Exo Terra reptile tanks, bird cages are just some examples of housing that can be used for Mice. Always make sure you Mouse proof any cage that you use. **They are extremely talented at escaping!**



PROPER BEDDING FOR MICE: CAREFRESH

Recommended Bedding for Mice

Carefresh bedding



They should have a decent amount of bedding to be able to burrow into it. 2-5inches depending on the type of cage you may have.



Warning!: Cedar shavings(example of cedar shavings pictured below) are one of the most dangerous to mice and most small mammals so you should under no circumstances house your mouse on cedar bedding.

Besides the fumes and possible ingestion of toxic wood shavings, wood can be irritating to walk on. Small mammals may develop sores or small cuts on their feet and might itch due to the wood being irritating to their skin



SAFE WOODS FOR MICE

Having different types of woods available for your Mouse/Mice to chew on will help prevent your Mouse/Mice from developing over grown teeth.

Apple (thin apple wood sticks can often be purchased from pet stores)	Arbutus	Ash	Bamboo cane
Blackberry	Blackcurrant	Coconut shell (can be purchased at craft stores and pet stores, usually with hermit crab supplies)	Cottonwood
Crabapple	Dogwood	Grapevine	Hawthorn
Hazelnut	Linden	Manzanita	Mulberry
Pear	Pecan	Pine (kiln-dried white only)	Poplar
Quince	Rose hip	Sycamore	

UNSAFE WOODS FOR MICE

Abale/esia	Alder	Almond (can produce cyanide)	Apricot
Aspen	Balsam fir	Beech	Birch
Black locust	Blackwood	Bogwood	Boxwood
Buddleia	Cashew	Cedar	Cherry
All citrus	Cocobolo	Cypress/bald cypress	
Dahoma	Ebony	Elang/mukulungu	Elder/elderberry
Elm	Eucalyptus	Fig/cape fig	Fir
Goncalo alves	Greenheart	Hemlock	Horse chestnut
Iroko	Juniper	Kapok	
Laurel	Magnolia	Mahogany	Mansonia
Maple	Mimosa	Mopane/mopani	Myrtle
Nectarine	Oak/cork	Obeche/abachi	Okuhaba/yungu
Oleander	Olive	Opepe/kussia	Paduak
Pau ferro	Peach	Peroba rosa	
Pine (fresh pine is toxic as are pinecones)	Plum	Plywood	Prune
Purpleheart	Quebracho	Redwood	Rosewood
Satinwood	Sassafras	Sequoia	Snakewood
Spruce	Teak	Walnut	Wenge
Willow	Yew	Yunnan	Zebrawood

Kruzer, Adrienne. "What Wood Can My Rat Chew?" *The Spruce Pets*, The Spruce Pets, 3 Nov. 2019, www.thesprucepets.com/safe-and-toxic-woods-for-rats-1238293.

Enrichment Ideas for Mice

Pet mice should have tons of enrichment that should be switched out frequently to encourage natural behaviors for mice and to keep their lives fun and exciting.



EXAMPLES: Wood tunnels, Wood ladders, and hide houses of different kinds. Some bird toys can be used for mice and some other small mammal pets. You can also make some DIY enrichment out of cardboard boxes and toilet paper rolls.