



Mice care

Owning and caring for mice is great fun and very rewarding, but it is a big responsibility and a long-term commitment. Did you know mice can live on average 1 ½ to 2 years?

Getting your mouse's diet and environment correct is the best way of ensuring a long and healthy life. Here are some guidelines for offering your mice the best care:

- **Mice are highly social animals** and should always live in same sex groups. A female mouse can have up to 10 litters per year, with between 4 and 16 babies per litter.
- **Male mice have a musk like odour which they use to mark their territory.** Males are territorial so if housing a pair or group of males, a lot of room is required to prevent fighting.
- **Females are very sociable and live well in small groups.** They have a less pungent odour than males.
- **Mice are very intelligent creatures and make very loyal pets.** They will give you a lot of companionship and fun but you must be dedicated.
- **Mice require cleaning out at least every two days.** Mice urinate on the go, so it is important to keep the cage and bedding clean to prevent respiratory problems. They can also leave up to 80 droppings per day!
- **Provide plenty of clean, warm bedding** such as a paper substrate or natural paper pellet (cat litter). Wood shavings are not advisable as they give off aromatic oils which are harmful to mice and other small animals.
- **Check your mice for signs of injury and illness every day.**
 - Check teeth are not becoming overgrown – seek veterinary advice if necessary.
 - Check the coat and skin for signs of mites, bald patches, sores or lumps. Seek veterinary advice.
 - Check the tail for cuts or damage.

Diet

- **Complimentary feeds:** this should be in pellet form with balanced nutrients, rather than a muesli mix, to prevent selective feeding. If feeding a muesli mix, choose a more natural looking mix rather than one which is high in colour (red, green, etc.), as these contain sugars and artificial colourings. Muesli mixes should include Millet and Budgie seed.
- **Mixed corn and sunflower seeds are not suitable** as they are high in protein and can cause skin problems and obesity.
- **Fresh water,** available at all times.
- **Additional feeds, in moderation:** apples, grapes, bananas, sweetcorn, rice, chicken, brown bread, yoghurt.
- **Treats:** if treats are given avoid commercial treats which are high in sugars.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN ADOPTING RAYSTEDE MICE

Adoption Fees: £5

(Average daily cost of care for all small animals at Raystede is in excess of £300)

Rehoming mice

We aim to find the best forever homes for the mice that end up in our care, so we have several **rehoming requirements** to guarantee each mouse finds the right home:

- **Mice are always rehomed in single sex pairs/groups**
- **We recommend housing mice in tanks or cages:**

Whether using a tank or a cage, the accommodation must enable the mice to make the most of their environment as they are active creatures. They need to have plenty of furnishings such as shelves, branches, tubes and toys. If providing a running wheel, ensure it is large enough to ensure the mouse's back is not bent when in use.

Many enclosures sold for mice are far too small, but there are plenty of cages/tanks that can be adapted even though they may suggest they are for other species, e.g. rats or degus. Mice will always live happily in a cage/tank that is too big, never in one that is too small.

- **A tank at least 120cm / 4 feet long, if it is a typical fish tank**

Tanks need a secure wire-framed lid giving good ventilation and to be clean as the ammonia from their urine can cause health problems.

- **A cage size of at least 21 x 21 x 32" / 81 x 52 x 52cm**

Cages have better ventilation but mice can be prone to urinating on the bars as they climb. Mesh size should be checked to ensure the mice cannot escape.

We take particular care where there are children under 7 years to ensure we will find the right match.

Raystede mice are:

- Health checked by a vet
- Follow up advice available

Applying to adopt Raystede mice

Having read this Mice Care Guide, if you are still interested in adopting Raystede mice and feel you can provide the necessary care, please complete an application form.

Before your application is approved, the Small Animals team must approve your mouse accommodation via photos clearly showing their accommodation. Please email photos to smallanimals1@raystede.org or bring to Customer Services.

If you reserve an animal, we will honour this reserve for up to 2 weeks (excluding exceptional circumstances at staff discretion).

Thank you for your interest and support. We hope we can help you find some new companions.

Raystede Centre for Animal Welfare, The Broyle, Ringmer, East Sussex, BN8 5AJ.

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