



RATS & MICE

CHOOSING YOUR PET

Rats and Mice are available in a variety of colours such as black, white and albino and in the case of mice, apricot and grey. Rats are more social and far more intelligent than mice. Mice on average live for two years and rats live for five years.

DIET

Pet City supplies mice and rat chow, as well as mice and rat cubes. These mixes contain all the essential vitamins and minerals required by your pet. For variety, we suggest giving some vegetable peelings. Rat and mice treats make a good supplement to your pet's diet. Mice and Rats may bite. This is because they can taste the salt on your skin. To meet their salt requirements and prevent biting, a salt lick is recommended. A mineral block is essential to provide the nutrients required for your rodents' health. A bird or guinea pig water bottle with a ball bearing behind the opening is the best way to keep clean drinking water available at all times.

HOUSING

Pet City offers a range of suitable cages, or you can use a birdcage or a glass aquarium secured at the top with strong mesh. Your pet's enclosure should be of a suitable size for the animal, its bedding and toys.

The floor should be covered in a clean, dry, non-toxic absorbent such as pine shavings, sawdust or cat litter (recyclable paper but not clay based litter). A bird-nesting box makes an excellent sleeping area for your rodent.

CLEANING THE CAGE

A clean cage is vital for your pet's health. Avoid the cage becoming damp and in extremes of temperature such as draughts or direct sunlight. Mice and Rats can be safely picked up by the base of the tail, with the support of the body. When the nest smells, throw all used bedding in the bin. Wash the cage thoroughly with the hutch cleaner spray, rinse well and dry. The water bottle and food dish should be cleaned and fresh bedding and nesting material should be added, about 3cm deep.

This leaflet is just a basic guide. To find out more about your pet, ask Pet City about suitable books.

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If your pet develops diarrhoea, stop fresh food until the condition clears, then slowly reintroduce fresh foods. Fleas rarely occur, but if they do small animal mite and lice spray should be used. Your pet can be washed with small animal shampoo. Breeding is easy, but a good book is recommended to show you everything you need to know.

TAMING

Rodents can be taught many tricks which will provide hours of fun for the owner and their friends. Young animals are easier to train and once tamed, they must be kept tamed. Regular daily handling is an essential part of taming and enables both the animal and owner to become accustomed to each other. Once the animal is comfortable, other people may be allowed to handle it. Mice and Rats rarely bite unless they are frightened or injured. Bites are non-toxic and should be treated like any other small cut. Rodents are inquisitive animals and should be offered toys etc. to keep them entertained. It is essential that an exercise wheel be provided in order to prevent your pet becoming overweight. Rats and Mice can be trained to do tricks for rewards. Rats, being of superior intelligence, can be taught fairly complex sequences. Contrary to popular belief, rats and mice are not afraid of cats, so keep them away from your cat.

Things you might need:

- **Water Bottle**
- **Salt Lick**
- **Mineral Block and Treats**
- **Bird Nesting Box**
- **Plastic Feed Dish**
- **Exercise Wheel**
- **Sawdust/Pine Shavings**
- **Small Animal Mite & Lice Spray**
- **Mice and Rat Cubes**
- **Mice and Rat Chow**
- **Small Animal Wormer**
- **Small Animal Shampoo**
- **Hutch Cleaner Spray**

