Fancy Mouse

Mus musculus domestica

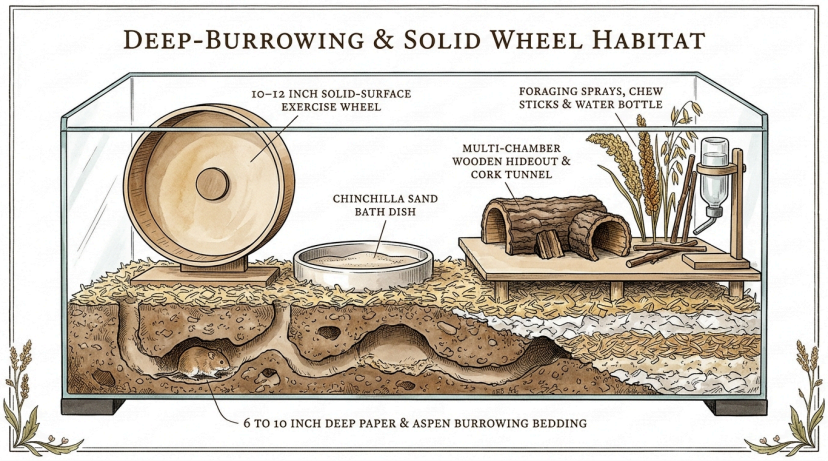


The Quick Version: Fancy Mice are tiny, endlessly busy acrobats that love tightrope-walking across branches, building intricate paper nests, and remodeling their tunnels every night! The #1 rule to know before picking your mice is their social split: **female mice thrive in a bonded group of 2–4 sisters ('does')**, while **unneutered male mice ('bucks') must live strictly solo** so they don't fight.

LIFESPAN	ADULT SIZE	SOCIAL RULE	MIN ENCLOSURE	WHEEL SIZE
1.5–3 Years	3–4" (+ 3–4" Tail)	2–4 Females • OR 1 Solo Male	20-Gal Long Tank (30×12")	8–10" Solid Surface

1. Cluttered Glass Terrarium, Deep Bedding & Climbing Branches

MICE SQUEEZE THROUGH ALMOST ANY WIRE BAR (>1/4") — A GLASS TANK WITH A MESH LID IS BEST!



Ideal Room Temp — 65°–75°F
Draft-free indoor room away from direct sun

Escape-Proof Rule — Glass Tank / 1/4" Mesh
Only 1/4" hardware mesh or glass tanks hold mice!

Bedding Depth — 4–6" Deep
4–6" of paper & aspen for burrowing + odor control

Wheel Diameter — 8–10" Solid
8–10" smooth solid wheel (keeps their tail straight!)

Layout Rule — Cluttered Canopy
Mice love 'organized clutter' — pack with tubes & ropes!

2. Two Ways That Work — Pick What Fits Your Home

SHORT & SWEET: BOTH OPTIONS WORK GREAT

Social Choice: Trio of Sisters (Does) vs. Solo Male (Buck)

Understanding mouse social biology makes choosing your setup easy:

OPTION A: TRIO OF 2–4 FEMALE MICE (ACTIVE COMMUNITY BUILDERS!)
Female mice are super social, have very mild odor, and spend all evening grooming each other and sleeping in a warm cuddle pile inside their nest box.

OPTION B: SINGLE MALE MOUSE (AFFECTIONATE SOLO COMPANION)
Intact adult male mice will fight fiercely with other males — so keep 1 male per tank! Solo males bond closely with their human and love daily hand-time and extra foraging toys.

Enclosure & Odor-Smart Bedding Blend

Because mice have fast metabolisms, the right bedding and cleaning routine keeps their tank smelling fresh:

OPTION A: 20-GALLON LONG GLASS TANK + LOCKING SCREEN TOP
Most wire hamster cages have 3/8" or 1/2" bar spacing that a mouse can walk right through! A 20-Gallon Long tank holds 4–6" of bedding and is 100% escape-proof.

OPTION B: 50% KILN-DRIED ASPEN + 50% PAPER BEDDING + NESTING TISSUE
Kiln-dried aspen neutralizes mouse urine ammonia far better than paper alone, while Carefresh paper and shredded toilet paper let them weave cozy spherical nests!

Organized Clutter & 8–10" Tail-Safe Wheel

Open empty space makes mice feel exposed to hawks — they are happiest when their tank looks like a miniature jungle gym:

OPTION A: EGG CARTONS, TOILET PAPER TUBES, ROPE VINES & WOOD BRIDGES
Hang sisal/cotton ropes from the screen lid and stack clean cardboard egg cartons and birch tunnels below — replacing chewed cardboard weekly also helps control scent!

OPTION B: 8" TO 10" UPRIGHT SOLID WHEEL
Skip tiny 5" mouse wheels — they force a mouse's long tail to curl upward over its back ('wheel tail'). An 8–10" solid wheel keeps their spine and tail straight.

Flip Over for Page 2: Feeding Schedule, Team Tips & Grab-and-Go Checklist →

3. High-Energy Omnivore Diet & Scatter Feeding

LAB BLOCK BASE + MILLET/SEED SCATTER + WEEKLY PROTEIN TREATS!

Daily Base (1–2 Tsp Per Mouse) — **Oxbow / Mazuri Mouse & Rat Lab Blocks:** Keeps protein at a healthy 14–16% (too much fatty sunflower seed or high protein can cause itchy skin hot-spots!).

Foraging Mix (Scatter Daily) — **Millet Sprays, Oat Groats, Canary Seed & Dry Pasta:** Sprinkle across the top of the bedding so your mice spend an hour hunting for every grain.

Fresh & Protein (2–3x Per Week) — **Pea-Sized Broccoli, Kale, Cucumber, or 1–2 Dried Mealworms:** Go easy on sugary fruits and fatty nuts/sunflower seeds.

Mouse Handling & Odor Control Tips:

- **Keep Old Nest Clump** — When cleaning, leave 1 handful of clean old bedding so they don't over-mark!
- **Wash Wooden Toys** — Wipe wheel daily; swap out peed-on cardboard tubes every week
- **Cup / Hand Scoop** — Never pick up by the tail tip — scoop in a cardboard tube or both hands
- **Never Feed** — Citrus, onion, garlic, chocolate, raw beans, or sticky peanut butter

Why Stripping the Whole Tank Makes Male Mice Smell *Stronger*: Mice navigate by scent marks. If you scrub every single toy with soap and replace 100% of the bedding on the same day, your mouse will panic and scent-mark twice as hard! Clean half the bedding one week and wipe the toys the next.

4. Tips, Tricks & Big No-Nos from Our Animal Care Team

REAL-WORLD HABITS THAT KEEP THEM THRIVING

Never Lift by the Tail

Just like rats and gerbils, grabbing a mouse by its tail can injure its spine or strip the tail skin. Let them walk onto your sleeve or into a paper cup!

Watch for Itchy Ears / Mites

If a mouse scratches its ears or neck raw, first check that its diet isn't overloaded with fatty sunflower seeds/peanuts, and have an exotic vet check for mites.

Keep Tank Away from Drafts

Mice weigh only 25–40 grams and lose body heat fast. Keep their tank at 65°–75°F with plenty of shredded paper nesting material.

Use Heavy Screen Clips

Mice are surprisingly strong vertical jumpers and can climb up water bottle spouts — always secure the tank screen lid with metal clips!

5. Grab-and-Go Setup Checklist

ASK US ON THE FLOOR — WE'LL HELP YOU MATCH EVERYTHING!

ESCAPE-PROOF TANK & BEDDING

- [ ] 20-Gallon Long Glass Tank (30"×12") + Heavy-Duty Screen Lid & Clips
- [ ] Kiln-Dried Aspen Shavings (for ammonia control) + Paper Bedding
- [ ] 2–3 Wooden Hideouts, Bendy Bridges & Cork/Cardboard Tunnels

WHEEL, ROPES & FORAGING

- [ ] 8–10" Smooth Solid-Surface Exercise Wheel (Never Wire Mesh!)
- [ ] Climbing Ropes, Wood Ladders & Millet/Oat Foraging Sprays
- [ ] Applewood Twigs & Loofah Chews

FOOD & HYDRATION

- [ ] Oxbow or Mazuri Rat & Mouse Lab Blocks + Small-Seed Foraging Mix
- [ ] Freeze-Dried Mealworms (Protein Treat)
- [ ] Lixit Small Animal Water Bottle + Small Heavy Ceramic Dish

A Quick Note from Our Team — Keep Learning & Ask Us Anytime!

The quick version: there's more than one right way to set up a great enclosure! As long as your temperatures, humidity, and diet are dialed in, your pet doesn't care whether its hide is a fancy wooden arch or a cozy fleece tunnel. Bringing home this critter is a **1.5–3 year commitment** — use these two pages as your home-base cheat sheet, watch what your pet tells you with their daily behavior, find a good local exotic vet, and call or stop by the shop anytime you have questions!

MY MICE INFO

Name / Morph: _____

Current Diet: _____

Date Adopted: _____