INSIDE FLAP • KEEPER HABITS

4 Keys to Long-Term Health

Small Daily Habits That Prevent 95% of Vet Visits

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!

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.

BACK COVER • TAKE THIS TO THE AISLE

Grab-and-Go Setup Checklist

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

MY MICE INFO & FEEDING LOG

Name / Morph: _____

Gotcha Date & Weight: _____

Current Diet & Daily Routine: _____

Critter Cabana & Cascade Pet Supply

Questions about habitat setup, nutrition, or bonding? Stop by or call our animal care team anytime — we're here for the full 1.5–3 year commitment!

CRITTER CABANA & CASCADE PET SUPPLY • CARE GUIDE

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.

QUICK VITAL STATS AT-A-GLANCE

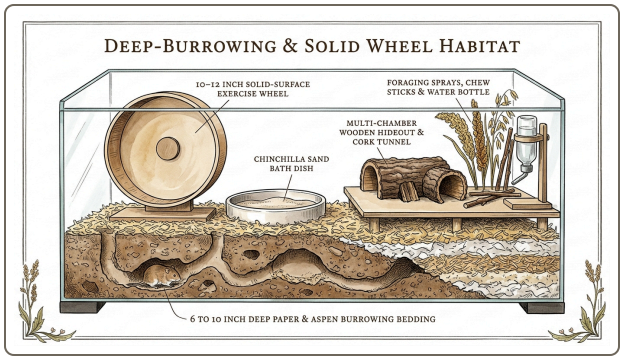
LIFESPAN **1.5–3 Years**	ADULT SIZE **3–4" (+ 3–4" Tail)**
SOCIAL RULE **2–4 Females • OR 1 Solo Male**	MIN ENCLOSURE **20-Gal Long Tank (30×12")**
WHEEL SIZE **8–10" Solid Surface**	

OPEN FOR TANK SETUP, TEMPS, FEEDING & SHOPPING LIST →

STEP 1 • HABITAT & CLIMATE

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
Draft-free indoor room away from direct sun
65°–75°F

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

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

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

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

Thermostat & Gauge Rule: Stick-on dial gauges can be off by 10°F+! Use a digital probe thermometer/hygrometer and always plug heating mats and heat emitters into a **digital thermostat**.

STEP 2 • STOCKED STORE OPTIONS

Two Ways That Work

Pick Option A or Option B Based on Your Home Setup

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.

STEP 3 • DIET & NUTRITION

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

First-Week Rule: Give your new Fancy Mouse **5 to 7 days of peace and quiet** with fresh food, hay, and water right away! Speak softly by the cage and offer hand-fed treats so they quickly learn your hands mean good things.