

# MICE & RATS

## The ultimate pocket pets!

*"I only hope that we never lose sight of one thing – that it was all started by a mouse."  
-Walt Disney; October 27, 1954*



Mice & rats make great pets! They are often referred to as 'pocket pets' due to their small stature & nocturnal habits & would love nothing more than to curl up somewhere dark & warm like a pocket! These cute creatures are in fact rodents; however, pet ones are far more sophisticated & domesticated than the type you may see scurrying through garbage bins!

In terms of keeping mice or rats as pets they are easy!

Mice are a little more timid than rats however, the more they are handled, the tamer they become. Rats & mice are susceptible to respiratory problems & tumours. With this in mind, always keep them in a draught free area. You will need to worm your pet every 3 months & they are susceptible to fleas,.



Your mouse/rat house should have clean natural based substrate on the floor. This will help control the odour & reduces the risk of respiratory problems in rats. This is also suitable for them to have as bedding & is safe for them to tear & chew.

Your mouse or rat will require a hide such as an igloo to sleep in. This will help them feel safe & secure when resting. You will also need a water bottle, food bowl & a supply of toys to enrich & stimulate them mentally. Toys such as a critter roller, tunnels, ladders & chews are essential in their house.

Maintaining a balanced diet is easy with rodents. We recommend the Vetafarm rat & mouse food to maintain a complete diet at all times. This may be supplemented with vegie peelings, fresh corn, spinach & fruit. Ensure that there is always a supply of fresh water in their bottle.

*Rats can live for up to 4 years of age & mice up to 2 years.*

As mice & rats love to chew, always keep a wood chew in their enclosure. Rats & mice are social creatures & love company. Females tend to live harmoniously whereas males that have not been raised together may fight. Remember, if you house a male & female together, you will have a litter in no time at all!

Mice gestate for 19-21 days with a litter size of around 5-12 pups!

Rats gestate for around 19-22 days with a litter size of around 8-12 pups!

We always recommend adult supervision when children are handling mice or rats until they develop the skills to do this confidently.

As a children's pet, they are most suitable for children over the age of 5 as there is some skill required to handle them comfortably.

Ensure you wash your hands thoroughly after handling pets.

