



# pets in the classroom



## CARE SHEET

### MICE

#### Housing

Mice are excellent escape artists and need a wire or plastic home with a tight-fitting lid. Since mice can live together in same gender pairs, multi-level homes are preferred for the additional space since each mouse needs its own food dish, water bottle, and exercise wheel. The recommended cage size is at minimum 12x12x12" with wire caging no larger than ½" apart.

#### Environment

Although mice do not need heating, cooling, or lighting elements, their cage should be placed out of direct sunlight in an area of low humidity that maintains an approximate temperature between 65-75 degrees. Mice are nocturnal creatures and are very active at night. Include an exercise wheel that is made of solid material to keep their tails from getting caught. Another element necessary in creating a happy mouse habitat is hide houses and chew toys. Since mice's front teeth never stop growing, they need lots of material to chew on at all times. They also like to hide and burrow into clean aspen, pine, or recycled paper bedding that they will shred and make into sleep areas. Be sure to change their bedding by spot cleaning weekly and completely changing out materials every month.

#### Care

Mice are very curious and social animals and conduct most of their activity at night. Exercise balls are a great way to engage in activity with your pet. For dietary needs, mice need fresh water daily in addition to high-quality mouse food and a small amount of supplementary grains, vegetables, and fruits.