

Fancy mouse – *Mus musculus f. domestica*

Housing



Cage

- cabinet or aviary with a digging area
- fish tank + cage above
- fish tank -> should be wider than it is tall
- bar spacing: max. 5mm for horizontal and 10mm for mesh



Furniture

- houses made of wood, clay, cork, bark ceramic etc. -> holes of min. 5cm Ø
- roots, branches, ropes, cork, coconuts etc.
- Exercise: wheels min. 28cm Ø



Bedding

- wood bedding, hemp, linen, paper mulch etc.
- bedding depth 10-25cm
- must be dust-free
- no cat litter or pellets



Location

- access to (indirect) daylight
- sheltered with no draughts
- min. temperature 18°C
- if possible, no birds or predators in the same room

Nutrition



Seeds

- grain
- all types of millet
- grass seeds
- weed seeds
- fatty seeds
- few pulses



Dried goods

- herbs
- flowers
- dried vegetables
- (dried fruit)



Fresh food

- vegetables daily
- fruit 2 - 3x a week
- flowers, herbs and plants
- grasses



Protein

- live insects (e.g. meal worms, crickets, cockroaches)
- dried insects
- cooked eggs or meat
- if there's nothing else: dry cat or dog food

Health & Behaviour



Reproduction

- gestation is approx. 21 d
- litter size is 8 - 15
- weaned approx. 21 days
- sexual maturity at 28 days
- can breed continuously without break



Diseases

- respiratory problems -> clicking, sneezing, quick breathing
- parasites (mites, lice, worms, (rarely) protozoa)
- tumors, skin problems



Social Behaviour

- must be housed in groups of 4 +
- groups of females, neutered males or both possible
- Do not house alone!



Handling

- scoop up with both hands
- use a small box or empty paper roll
- Do not hold them up by the tail!
- usually will not bite, but be gentle