

# MICE ADOPTION GUIDE



## Finding your new companions

### Step 1: Submit your application form (available on our website) and photos

We will need to see photos and measurements of your mice's accommodation. Please email these to: [smallanimals1@raystede.org](mailto:smallanimals1@raystede.org)

We will consider your application and contact you if we need a few more details or to invite you to Raystede for a chat. If you do not hear from us, we have everything we need for now, thank you.

### Step 2: Wait for the magic to happen

Once you have registered with us, please keep an eye on our website for new arrivals and contact us if you feel someone might suit your home.

When animals arrive at Raystede, we get to know them through behaviour and medical assessments. Our expert animal care teams carefully use this information alongside your application to see if the match could be a success. Finding the perfect pet can take time. Please be patient; they will be worth the wait.

### Step 3: Visit Raystede

We will invite you to Raystede as soon as we have found any potential matches for your home. We will discuss the animals' background, health and behaviour. This sometimes requires a few visits. You will need to provide photo ID, proof of address, and if applicable, written landlord permission to have a pet in your property.

### Step 4: Take your new pet home

Once we have found your perfect partner, we will book an adoption appointment; our Rehoming Team will talk you through caring for your pet. Your adoption fee will help us continue our work to give animals a better life.

## Rehoming criteria

Our housing requirements aim to ensure the best welfare standards for mice. Our team are happy to offer advice in purchasing or adapting your set-up to provide the best home before adopting.

**Mice are always rehomed in single sex pairs/groups.** Mice are social animals and naturally live in groups

### Mice need a large cage or tank:

- **A cage size of at least 32 x 20 x 20" / 80 x 50 x 50cm:** cages have better ventilation, but mice can be prone to urinating on the bars as they climb. Mesh size should be checked to ensure the mice cannot escape.
- **A tank at least 90cm / 3 feet long:** tanks need a secure wire-framed lid giving good ventilation and to be clean as the ammonia from their urine can cause health problems.

Many enclosures sold for mice are far too small, but there are plenty of cages/tanks designed for rats/degus that can be easily adapted for mice. Mice will always live happily in a cage/tank that is too big, never in one that is too small. Whether using a tank or a cage, they need to have plenty of furnishing such as shelves, branches, tubes and toys.

## Peace of mind when adopting

- All mice are health checked by a vet

You will also receive:

- A comprehensive adoption pack and appointment with our Rehoming Team to ensure you have everything you need to care for your new mice

Follow-up advice from our expert Small Animals Team

## Thank you for your adoption fee, which will help to cover some of our costs:

Adoption fee: £5 each

The average daily cost of care for all small animals at Raystede is in excess of £300.

Raystede Centre for Animal Welfare, The Broyle, Ringmer, East Sussex, BN8 5AJ.

Tel: (01825) 880467 Fax: (01825) 840995 E-mail: [smallanimals1@raystede.org](mailto:smallanimals1@raystede.org) [www.raystede.org](http://www.raystede.org)

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## Mice care

Owning and caring for mice is great fun and very rewarding, but it is a big responsibility and a long-term commitment. Did you know mice can live on average 1 ½ to 2 years?

Getting your mouse's diet and environment correct is the best way of ensuring a long and healthy life. Here are some guidelines for offering your mice the best care:

- **Mice are highly social animals** and should always live in same sex groups. A female mouse can have up to 10 litters per year, with between 4 – 16 babies per litter.
- **Male mice have musk-like odour which they use to mark their territory.** Males are territorial so if housing a pair or group of males, a lot of room is required to prevent fighting.
- **Females are very sociable and live well in small groups.** They have a less pungent odour than males.
- **Mice are very intelligent creatures and make very loyal pets.** They will give you a lot of companionship and fun, but you must be dedicated with their socialising and handling.
- **Mice require cleaning out at least twice a week.** Mice urinate on the go, so it is important to keep the cage and bedding clean to prevent respiratory problem. They can also leave up to 80 droppings a day!
- **Provide plenty of clean, warm bedding** such as a paper substrate or natural paper pellets. Wood shavings are not advisable as they give off aromatic oils which are harmful to mice and other small animals.
- **Check your mice for signs of injury and illness every day and seek veterinary advice if necessary.**
  - Check teeth are not becoming overgrown.
  - Check the coat and skin for signs of mite, bald patches, sores or lumps.
  - Check the tail for cuts or damage.

## Diet

- **Complimentary feeds:** This should be in pellet form with balanced nutrients, rather than a muesli mix, to prevent selective feeding. If feeding a muesli mix, choose a more natural looking mix rather than one which is high in colour (red, green, etc.), as contain sugars and artificial colourings. Muesli mixes should include millet and budgie seed.
- **Fresh water,** available at all times.
- **Additional feeds,** in moderation: apples, grapes, bananas, sweetcorn, rice, chicken, yoghurt. Mixed corn or sunflower seeds are not suitable as they are high in protein and can cause skin problems and obesity.
- **Treats:** if treats are given avoid commercial treats which are high in sugars.