



MOUSE CARE GUIDE: BEHAVIOR

SOUNDS OF RESPIRATORY ILLNESS

- Clicking
- Sneezing
- Whistling
- Gurgling

If your mouse is making any of these sounds, take it to the veterinarian as soon as possible.

VOCALIZATION

Squeaking: Some mice will squeak when they are playing, are disturbed, surprised, or picked up. This can be a protest to what is happening or a cry in pain.

Teeth Chattering/Grinding/Hissing: This is called bruxing and it means your mouse is happy! This is essentially a mouse purr. You may also see your mouse's eyes boggle.

Peeping: A happy sound that is sometimes heard when grooming.

Singing: Recent studies have shown that male mice sing like songbirds to woo females — we just can't hear them, due to the high pitch! Mice do lots of communicating with each other vocally in pitches that we humans cannot detect.

BODY LANGUAGE

Hopping: Mice hop, bounce, leap, and run around when they are happy and having fun. This is also called popcorning.

Licking: Mice lick themselves and each other to groom. If your mouse licks you, it means you are loved!

Tail Wagging: If you see your mouse's tail wagging back and forth, like a dog, it means it is nervous, stressed, or afraid. With mice, the wagging tail is a warning that it will attack.

Barbering: When mice are stressed they may begin to over-groom themselves, causing hair loss and occasionally sores.

Chasing: Mice are social, playful creatures and will often chase each other around for fun, especially younger mice. If you notice your mouse chasing and making lots of noise as well as contact, this could mean they are squabbling and may need to be separated.

Excessive Grooming: When mice are stressed or nervous, they tend to over-groom themselves as a self-soothing behavior. If overstressed for too long, some mice will begin to barber (see above.)

Incontinence: Mice communicate with each other largely by scent, including urine and feces. It is debated amongst mouse fanciers whether or not mice can be potty trained, but most people believe they cannot primarily due to the communication factor. Luckily, mice are very small so cleanup is easy.

