



MOUSE CARE GUIDE: SAFE HANDLING AND GROOMING

SAFE HANDLING

Trust: It is best to let your mouse come to you before reaching in to pick it up—this develops trust. Talk to your mouse and let it sniff your hand to announce your presence. Mice have very poor eyesight and this will help prevent startling them. A great way to earn your mouse's trust is to place a treat in the palm of your hand and just rest your hand flat, palm up on the floor of the cage without moving. Leave it there for as long as you are able. Eventually, your mouse will be curious and comfortable enough to come up and sniff you, then climb into your hand to take the treat. Be patient. It may take several tries over several days. In time you will be able to have your pet come up to you without a treat. Once your mouse is comfortable being in your hand, it will be easy to pick them up. Then you can take them out of the cage for play time.



PICKING UP YOUR MOUSE

It is ideal to you train your mouse to hop in your hand then pick it up. Until then, you can gently scoop them from underneath if needed to put them in an exercise ball or for brushing. Once your mouse is comfortable being picked up and handled, you can let it run around you.

GROOMING

Bathing: Mice are fastidiously clean animals and spend a large part of their time grooming themselves. Never bathe your mouse. Older mice may need help grooming. If so, use a warm, damp, clean cloth to clean your mouse. Make sure you dry them well so they don't get cold.

Dental Care: You do not need to brush your mouse's teeth but you must provide plenty of chew toys so your mouse can wear down its teeth naturally. Check your mouse's teeth regularly to be sure they are not overgrown or misaligned.

Nails: Generally, mice do not need their nails trimmed and will wear down their claws naturally, especially if you provide your pet with a brick or something similar to run on. It is not recommended that you cut your mouse's nails as their toes are very tiny and the risk of cutting off a toe is high.

Smell: Male mice are notorious for their strong, musky odor. They use it to attract females. Unfortunately, there is no way to prevent the odor, so finding the right odor control method is key. **Never use strong sprays or perfumes around your pet or in their habitat.**