



Hares, Rabbits, Pigeons  
and Pet Stock Dept.



L. W. LOTT

**M**ANY of our readers have written for information about raising white mice. Herewith we reprint "Hints on the Care of Domesticated Mice" by the United States Bureau of Biological Survey:

"Domesticated mice, which include white, black, waltzing, silver and other tame mice, are kept as pets, and also are used extensively in medical laboratories for testing remedies and for determining types of certain diseases. They thrive best in a moderately high temperature.

**Food**

"A standard ration for domesticated mice is bread soaked in milk, which supplies food and drink. Those kept as pets should be given uncracked nuts and hard grains to prevent their gnawing teeth from becoming overlong. Green food, as lettuce, chickweed, or boiled carrots, potatoes, or parsnips, should be furnished in small quantities occasionally. Fresh water should be in every cage. All dishes should be disinfected frequently by scalding.

**Breeding**

Sexual maturity is attained at from two to three months of age. Females can produce an average of five young in a litter every thirty days till they are about eighteen months old. The period of gestation is about twenty-one days. The young are weaned when twenty to twenty-five days old, and are suitable for laboratory use when six weeks old. Each male has three or four females which occupy his cage when they are without young. Each female is removed to a breeding cage of her own before her young are born and is kept there except for short visits to the male's cage, until her young are weaned.

**Cages**

"The family cage consists of a small wooden box, about seven inches wide, ten inches long, and six inches high, covered with a perforated zinc top, which admits sufficient air and dim light. The bottom of the box should be littered with cut straw or planing-mill shavings. Cages for females with young should be littered with three or four inches of shavings and cut paper. Glass battery jars, one gallon capacity, covered by fine wire netting, are suitable for this purpose.

Young mice, when weaned, are placed together in large cages having bottoms of wire netting, which allow droppings to fall through to a metal tray beneath. In these cages it is desirable to have objects for the mice to climb over or burrow under, in order that they may get variety of exercise."

**The Rabbit Exhibit at the Hanover Fair.**  
The July issue of the American Breeders' Review contains the following in reference to the Hanover Fair: "Exhibit your rabbits and cavy at this show. James T. Huston, Hanover, Pa., is the manager. This means a great deal to the rabbit and cavy fanciers for he has the welfare of their industry at heart. Entries close September 10. Write Mr. Huston for a premium list. Do it now before you forget."

Various elaborate feeding directions are compiled by different so-called rabbit "experts". Some of them are worth following while many are not. We know of no small

animal which can eat and thrive on so varied a lot of grain and greens as a rabbit. We would suggest that in summer plenty of grass and vegetable tops are given and little grain, and as winter approaches then give grain more often and stored carrots. Always give your rabbits clean hay. Just use a little common sense in feeding and you will keep them well and growing fast. Be careful in giving grass to the young rabbits and also be careful in gradually changing the kind of food for all rabbits, both old and young. It doesn't take any great amount of experience to feed rabbits correctly, regardless of what the "great" experts may tell you.

Here are a few remarks on "Feeding", which we had printed a year or so ago:

**Feeding**

"The majority of breeders advocate two feedings a day, morning and evening; with a noon-day feeding for suckling does. Hay being available at all times. Although we feed our rabbits but once a day, in the late afternoon, we are inclined to believe, if it is convenient in that two feedings a day might be a better plan. Dr. Roth says, in his very intelligent book on rabbits: 'That he feeds at sundown, and in the morning a little clover hay, and every third day something green.' With regards to the latter he was particular that no medicinal plants were fed. He claims that dandelion is injurious, and plantain should be fed only sparingly. He does not agree with the many breeders who advocate leaving a piece of rock-salt always in the hutch, for salt is a poison in an over-indulgence, and causes bowel trouble, he claims. His opinion on cabbage is: 'Some claim cabbage is a poison for rabbits, while others feed it freely. It is not a poison and the rabbits are fond of it, especially as a green food in winter, but, like other things, don't overfeed.' The United States Department of Agriculture suggests cabbage. Bureau of Survey says the best grain is oats, either whole or crushed. Others prefer barley, while some advocate kafir corn. In the winter we feed whole oats with a little cracked corn, and in the summer only oats."

Various magazines contain articles about keeping rabbits in place of chickens. Don't pay any attention to these articles. They are written, in most cases, to get you to buy some rabbits. My advice is to raise both rabbits and chickens. There never can be any animal which will fully take the place of chickens, unless they learn to lay eggs. As a meat producer the rabbit is a wonder,

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WM. WENKHOUS, Dept. K, BEAVER FALLS, PA.

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