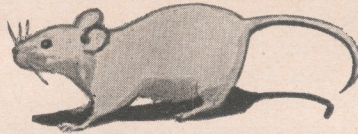


FANCY MICE



SELECTION FOR SIZE

By C. Frank Fayne

FIRST of all, let's not kid ourselves.

If we want large well boned, big eyed and eared mice with the necessary tail length and skull, we must try to find these qualities in our breeding animals. And, it is always best to get these qualities from a strain of mice and not just one lone individual. The breeding of mice has not reached the stage where one may examine the pedigree of a mouse, but if possible, the breeder should breed from mice that come from a large strain. That is the first step. Select the largest specimens and mate them.

The beginner will find difficulty in telling when he has a mouse of good bone and substance. I have found that mice with good broad skulls are usually well boned throughout. Another good indication is the mouse's tail. If it resembles a piece of string, discard the animal for breeding purposes. The tail should be stout at the base and taper to a whip lash at the end; the vertebrae being slightly visible through the skin.

Do not breed from males whose sex cannot be readily determined at a glance. Such animals throw small boned youngsters. Avoid the selection of long, narrow hiped females for the breeding pen as they are invariably bad mothers and their young will lack substance.

After you have done your best to secure the largest and finest breeding stock, put them in a good sized cage. You cannot hope to breed big mice in two by four cages. Small cages are always dirty and your pets will have an odor that they would not have otherwise. Mice need plenty of exercise to grow and develop properly. Fresh air and plenty of it is conducive to good health and growth. So, to keep your mice healthy, clean, growing and a pleasure to the eye, be sure they have room to act like a mouse should act.

If you want to develop a strain of nasty tempered, sickly mice with small bone, poor eyes, and dull coats, pen them up in small, dirty, damp, odorous cages. In a short time they will become so sick and nervous as to resemble the unfortunate waltzing

mouse who found out many years ago that the only way to get any exercise in a mouse cage is to whirl around in circles.

I have found that my mice prefer more length and breadth to their

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No Laboratory Stock.

Standard and unusual colors, also Astrex (curly-coated).

Fine type and size, from imported winning strains, winners of many cups and ribbons.

All our Mice are tame and suitable for pets. They are raised under ideal conditions.

SPECIAL: A few very large Champagne and Champagne-Tan bucks now on hand, splendid bone. Improve the type and size in your stud with one or more of these fine Mice.

SEND STAMP FOR REPLY

Fancy Show Mice

From Imported Prize-Winning
English Strains:

Again we have a few trios of the following varieties
for sale:

White Black-Eyed
Chocolate Fox
Black

Chocolate and Tan
Black and Tan
Chocolate

Blue Fox

These fancy show mice are from imported prize-winning English strains and are capable of competing with champions at any mouse show. Well-bred fancy show mice are interesting pets, and their breeding and care is a fascinating hobby. The breeding of fancy mice also has educational value affording an excellent method of exploring the various principles of genetics.

WRITE FOR FREE INFORMATION AND LITERATURE

Dr. Salsbury's Mousery
Dept. A CHARLES CITY, IOWA

cages than height. They are naturally terrestrial animals and are happier with more floor space.

Now that you have them in a nice roomy cage, see that they have plenty of wholesome food and grain and fresh water. Mice will do very well on a diet of milk, wholewheat bread and oats every day. This can be supplemented with a little green food once or twice a week in the form of lettuce, carrot, apple, dandelion or sprouted oats. If a mixture of canary, millet and hemp seed is fed once or twice a week, your pets will never lack a sheen on their fur. It is best to study the feeding pattern of wild mice and follow their example in feeding our domestic varieties. Wholewheat bread, thoroughly dried, then soaked in cold water till crumbly moist and fed with the addition of whole milk, will be relished every day. Nothing can equal the bone building quality of whole milk. Fairly good results may be had by feeding table scraps or commercial dog food mixes, but if you want rapid growth and good size, use whole milk, and use it every day.

(Continued next month)

The American Mouse & Rat Fanciers' Association

Official News—Notes

We are in receipt of an interesting circular, entitled "FANCY MICE AS A HOBBY," published by the Dr. Salsbury's Laboratories, Iowa, used in connection with the Mouse Village they had at the World's Poultry Congress, August, 1939.

We have written regarding a supply of these and will try to obtain a supply for free mailing to all inquirers. So, all those interested in mice may write in and we will get your names on our list for mailing of this little free folder as soon as we can secure them.

Mouse fanciers are urged to support the ALL-PETS MAGAZINE when desiring to advertise your mice. The ALL-PETS Mouse Section is the most widely read of any mouse section of any publication.

Today I received copies of "THE FANCY MOUSE," and of "MICE FOR THE HOBBYIST, EXHIBITOR, & SCIENTIST," from the FUR & FEATHER Magazine, London, England. These are both interesting and helpful books.

Several of the members have written in inquiries regarding a good market for laboratory mice and rats. We are contacting various possible sources of markets and as soon as

we have the proper information we will contact the members who inquired.

Bro. Fayne's article, FUNCTIONS OF A MOUSE CLUB, is good and every member should take this to heart. What the mouse fancy needs is genuine whole-hearted co-operation on the part of all. Your secretary at this time might make the remark that he has not a single mouse to sell and is not taking any business in this way from the membership. Further, I believe \$2 a year is not too much for a membership fee, and like the N.P.C.A., we should have a sustaining fee of \$5 for those who wish to help the organization more, with contributing membership of \$2 per month and Life Membership of \$25.

Our mimeographed monthly mouse and rat news-letter will be going forward soon to all members, and we may issue it twice a month if the activity warrants it.

I am secretary of the Club only until a suitable successor can be found, and if there are any of our members who would like to try the task, I would like to hear from them.

—Gerald Franklin Wright, Sec'y.

Value Of Angoras

The Angora rabbit is too small for practical use in meat production (its weight at maturity is only 6 pounds), and its skin has little value in the fur trade, but as it produces a wool that is an article of commerce, Angora raising, if conducted carefully and conservatively, has a proper place in agricultural production. It is not a get-rich-quick enterprise, fortunes such as those promised by some promoters will not be realized from it.

The feeding, housing, and breeding practices used in raising other rabbits are also recommended to Angora producers. Special considerations are outlined in the following paragraphs:

The wool, which grows in a year to a length of 5 to 8 inches, or in 3 months to a length of 2½ to 3½ inches, is usually clipped four times a year, the weight of each clipping varying from 2 to 3 ounces. The greatest quantity of wool is produced in winter. At this season as much as ¼ inch should be left unclipped to protect the rabbit against cold.

The most satisfactory Angora wool producers are bucks and unmated does. Pregnant does should not be clipped on the belly as the wool there is required for lining the nest.

Grooming is not necessary during the first two months after clipping, and in many cases the animal is

groomed only immediately before clipping.

Shearing should be done carefully, and the different grades of wool should be put into separate containers.

The Angora-wool raiser should familiarize himself with the grades in greatest demand and the current prices. White is by far the most desirable color. As a rule, manufacturers purchase wool in quantity and are not interested in 1 or 2-pound lots. — *From Wildlife Research and Management Leaflet BS-55, U. S. Dept. of Agric., Bureau of Biol. Survey.*

Meat Prices

The following figures show the comparison of Rabbit meat prices on foot per pound in the following cities (Taken from the Miami Valley R & C B A Bulletin):

Richmond, Indiana, 16c; Springfield, Ohio, 15c; Portsmouth, Ohio, 14c; Cincinnati, Ohio, 16c; Anderson, Indiana, 18c.

In Dayton, Ohio, 38c is the price paid for dressed rabbits.

GIANT CHINCHILLA RABBIT ASS'N.

By Melvin E. Behrens, Sec'y.-Treas.
Pearl River, N. Y.

Just as sure as the sun rises and sets each day, just as sure is our association making progress. We can now report a membership of over 50, with an additional number of interested parties requesting information on Giant Chinchillas, prices of breeding stock, etc. We have been contacted through our advertising in the widely distributed book, "The American Rabbit Industry," and magazine reports when your secretary has one. We are now a chartered Specialty club of the AR & CBA, the charter having been received some months ago.

In the Giant Chinchilla we have truly an American Rabbit, first produced in 1921 by its originator, Edw. H. Stahl. Because it conflicted in weight with other Chinchilla breeds, it did not attain its deserved popularity. Because of the death of secretary I. W. Starbuck, Salt Lake City, Utah, a number of years ago, there has been no association exclusively sponsoring Giant Chinchillas since.

When standards were revised in 1933, top weight limits were removed on the Giant Chinchilla, and it is coming into the limelight very rapidly. Now, with our new association, we shall once more push this once popular breed up to the front. We present a rabbit that is truly a giant in every respect, and at the same time retaining the Chinchilla color. We grant that the small Chinchilla Rabbit is a wonderful animal—it has been since it first made its appearance in America. By the same token, we claim that a rabbit twice as large must be twice as good. We present a rabbit of fast growth—fast growth at an early age—an ideal commercial meat and fur rabbit—it's not unusual for this rabbit to attain a weight of five to six pounds at weaning age. A rabbit that will produce two and one half to three pounds of rabbit meat in two months has profit possibilities, even when sold for market. Its breeding stock sales should make them one of the most if not the most profitable rabbits to raise.

We want and need more members, membership dues are only one dollar per annum, so join with other live-and-awake breeders, in the creation of Giant Chinchillas—truly an all purpose rabbit.

THE CAVY PAGE WILL BE RESUMED
NEXT MONTH.