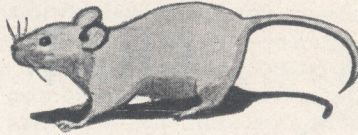


FANCY MICE



VARIETIES AND STANDARDS

By MARTIN HARTMAN, *New City, N. Y.*

THE ideal mouse should be seven or eight inches in length from the tip of the nose to end of tail. Head should be long, with the nose not too finely pointed. Eyes large and bold. Ears tulip shaped, carried erect with plenty of space between them and free from creases.

The body should be long and slim with a racy appearance and a trifle arched over the loins. The tail should be long and tapering, free from kinks and about the same length as the body. The coat should

be short, glossy, sleek and perfectly smooth.

The various varieties follow:

Agoutis, a rich brown ticked all over with orange hairs, eyes black.

Blacks should be a deep, lustrous color, free from any other color whatsoever.

Black and Tans should have a rich, lustrous, solid black on top with a distinct dividing line on the sides. There should also be two tiny tan specks over the eyes.

Blue, a distinct shade of slate blue

similar to the color known as maltese, not so dark as to be mistaken for black.

Blue and Tan should be similar to the Black and Tan except where the Black is Blue should appear.

Broken Marked, in this variety the ground color is white irregularly patched with any of the colors mentioned.

Broken Marked Pink-eyed, any broken marked having pink eyes.

Chocolate, this color should be similar to a cake of butter chocolate.

Chocolate and Tan, upper parts rich, dark chocolate shading to tan beneath.

Cinnamon. In this color the coat should be a rich brown, ticked with chocolate hair.

Creams should be a very light shade of yellow even throughout, without dark or light patches anywhere. This color comes in both black and pink eyes.

More next month.

Fancy Show Mice

From Imported Prize-Winning
English Strains:

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

White Pink-Eyed	Champagne and Tan
White Black-Eyed	Chocolate and Tan
Silver Black-Eyed	Black and Tan
Silver Pink-Eyed	Chinchilla
Black	Chocolate
Black Fox	Fawn
Blue Fox	Cream

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 affords an excellent method of exploring the various principles of genetics.

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WANTS ACTIVITY

Mr. A. R. Adams, Lincoln Park, N. J. writes: "It seems to me that we need an active club to stimulate interest in well-bred Mice, for without a good live Mouse club we cannot get very far. What happened to the American Mouse Club? Will some one get in touch with its officers and learn if we can't become more active and hold a few more shows?"

"After our last show, one exhibitor who won two prizes sold over a thousand Mice and met many very interesting people. Mouse shows are sporting and profitable."

MOUSE MUSINGS

A mouse shall be considered even-marked that is of any distinct color and equally balanced in markings, and free from runs. The more spots or patches the better, combined with pleasing effect.

Concentrated in-breeding will probably fix markings, but even in the marked varieties we require constitution, size and prolificity. It is known that excessive in-breeding results in deterioration in constitution, bone vigor and size to such a degree that certain strains become non-prolific or reproduce young small in numbers.

In the production of exhibition Champagnes there are one or two characteristics which the fancier must watch very carefully. The first of these is the belly color, which, unless one does pay careful attention to it in the breeding stock, will result

in mice which are almost white "under." The second is a white patch on the nose which crops up with most annoying frequency. Mice showing either of the faults mentioned above should never be used in the breeding pen.

Some mice, like some humans, are never in good condition, but with mice the solution is simpler than with humans. If a mouse does not make up well, if it does not develop that pleasing sheen on its coat, if to your eye it does not present a pleasing picture of perfect condition, kill it. If you breed only from perfect specimens you will find eventually that the number of mice that have to be scrapped after several generations of selective breeding is indeed very small.

Selective breeding appears to be the line upon which we must work, always bearing in mind the necessity for strengthening and stabilizing the essential points of the ideal.

CAVY STANDARDS

(Continued from page 75)

not possibly be, by definition, Cinnamons. No genetic formula then can be given for an animal that is unproducible. The true Cinnamon cavy was of the formula *AAbbCCCEPP*; it had no black whatever in the coat; the base of the hair was brown (Chocolate, the hair tips were a clear orange-red, and the eye was a deep brown, not black. I have not seen a cavy of this composition in the show rooms for almost thirty years. The very few modern Cinnamons which I have seen have formulae involving the color factor and are *AABbc^dEEPP*. In these the hair tip is dark cream color, and the hair base is a dark sepia. The eye is as black as the eye of a black cavy. They do not have the rich color of the true Cinnamon. An examination to the table referred to above will indicate other combinations of *c^k*, *c^d*, *c^a*, which would produce pseudo-Cinnamon cavies. Of course these mixtures would give wide ranges of variability in the offspring.

This completes the Agouti series for which there are show Standards. Now for a listing of some of the possible combinations that might, if handsome enough to attract attention, be ultimately set up as breeds.

Black-eyed types (*PP*):—CREAM AGOUTI, *AABbc^kEEPP*. This animal is quite commonly seen in

mixed herds. It is not especially attractive. The hair at the base is a rusty black; the tip is brassy yellow. A very much handsomer animal is produced if the factors *li* and *f* are added as the hair tip then is a very light cream.

Pink-eyed types (*pp*):—GOLDEN PINK-EYED AGOUTI, *AABBCC EEpp*. This animal is very handsome. The hair at the base is a pale bluish brown; the tips are red. When adult the animal looks like a red that has been lightly powdered with snowflakes. The eyes are pink.

CREAM PINK-EYED AGOUTI, *AABbc^kEEpp*. This animal has the base of the hair lighter than the preceding; the tips are yellow. It looks like a cream animal that has wandered through some soot. It is especially attractive in Peruvian and Abyssinian as the long coat and the rosettes which open the coat permit the contrasting colors to be readily seen.

SILVER PINK-EYED AGOUTI, *AABbc^kEEpp*. This one gives the effect of an albino with pale smoky shadings throughout. In Peruvian it is very beautiful and might as a show breed be called "Smoke."

Other possible combinations can be made using the factor, Salmon eye (*sm sm*). This can be added to all the Standard varieties to make an intensely colored animal with a pink eye. In appearance these would look just like the Standard animals except for the eye color. It would not change the aspect of the ordinary pink-eyed (*pp*) forms.

Furthermore all these synthesized forms can be had with "self bellies" by substituting *a^t* for *AA*. The total number of different Agoutis that can be produced from those detailed above then is eighteen. Our readers will see that many other genetic combinations are possible. I have produced most of them and they are not sufficiently different in appearance from those given in this chat to become "breeds." If they appeared in breeding, as they often do now, they would simply be culls which did not quite conform to Standard, just as they are at present.

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**For the explanation of the genetic symbols, see ALL-PETS magazine, June, July, August and September, 1939.

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