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ALL COLORS

Swiss White Mice, \$15 per 100

Make fine pets.
Need little care and feed.

Howard Jones

324 Central Street

PALMETTO

FLORIDA

Despite Bad Repute Skunk Favored Pet

By V. M. COUCH

Most people would not think favorably of having a skunk for a pet; however, many are kept for this very purpose.

This is one animal that we read very little about, although it is one of our most valuable fur producers and least objectionable to handle when the two scent glands are removed.

These animals when ranch raised are not vicious and after a little time they become very tame and may be kept for pets. The scent glands should be removed when the pups are about two months old. They are very playful when young, intelligent and when deodorized are no more objectionable than cats.

Skunks may be raised and kept in captivity under conditions similar to those of mink. They have one peculiar trait. The females will injure or kill the males after mating if kept enclosed with them.

Four to Nine

The gestation period of the skunk is about six weeks and the size of the litter runs from four to nine, averaging about six. They breed but once a year, usually late in March or in April, maturing in December.

The young will come out of the nest to eat when about two months old and when four months old they may be allowed a general run. The skunk is a burrowing animal and the fence enclosing them must extend underground for a couple of feet and should be four or five feet high with an overhang to keep other animals out.

In feeding, a certain amount of meat is necessary, but skunks will eat bread, clover, tomatoes, sweet corn and other vegetables. Their food should not be salted. Feed only once a day and in the evening. These animals are great insect hunters and if the pens are of sufficient size and favorably located, they will forage for much of their food.

It is important that they be fed liberally in the fall in order that they may be in good condition when winter arrives. Clean, fresh water should be kept within their reach at all times.

Number in Litter Not Determinant of Size

Many large healthy mice cannot rear more than three or four youngsters properly, while many smaller does will rear six and more without any trouble, these youngsters attaining size equal to their parents.

Big mice appear to absorb the goodness from the feeding for their own bodies rather than be able to pass it on to the young, while the smaller

does eat almost as much but pass 50 per cent of the nutriment gained into their young.

The number born in a litter does not make much difference, as a doe producing only two or three does not get the size into her young any better than a doe producing six or seven, but if the larger litters are reduced to about four, two or three days after birth and when the mother has settled down this does not increase the size of young left.

Wholesome Food

The most important aid to size is in the feeding after the second week of birth, and not so much in the rich quality of the food as in the wholesomeness of it.

What is wanted is a good plain diet, plenty of it and, most important of all, regularity of the feeding. Cleanliness is, of course, a very big factor.

The nesting compartment should not be cleaned out for the first two or three weeks, but the run and feeding place should be cleaned out every three or four days after the first week, taking out any spilled food every feeding time.

Feed once a day and between six and eight o'clock in the evening. Mice eat in the evening and during the night, and do not appreciate being disturbed during the day.

NEW ZEALAND WHITES

	DOES	BUCKS
4-5 Months Old	\$ 6.00 ea.	\$ 6.50 ea.
6-7 Months Old	8.00	9.00
8-9 Months Old	11.00	15.00
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High grade proposition for steady, industrious person who owns or can obtain suitable housing. Moderately handicapped person could handle it. "Down-and-outers" or persons who have failed at everything else please do not reply. No post-cards or hasty scribbles answered - I'm too busy. If your letter indicates intelligence and business ability enough to handle this business, I can start you off on right foot and back you up with all the force of 12 years experience in handling mice.

J. L. Cleaver

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