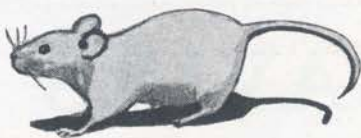


## FANCY MICE



### THE FUTURE OF THE MOUSE FANCY

By R. W. FERRIER

**T**HIS was the title of the first article I wrote for ALL-PETS, which appeared over three years ago,

#### Teach Children

To properly care for pets.

They will then be more considerate of others.

WE WILL SEND YOU OUR METHOD OF CARING FOR MICE IF YOU ORDER A SMOTHER-PROOF CAGE, DRINKING TUBE AND THREE (3) MICE @ \$1.50.

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#### EXHIBITION MICE

At present, I have no Mice of any kind for sale, and shall have none of J. Wood's or Dr. Kerr's books until March 1st. Kindly note that I do not sell White Mice of any kind to readers. I have professionally made breeding cages for sale at less than half-price, all with drop fronts for feeding.

REV. R. W. FERRIER  
Stockport, New York

## MANATEE MOUSERY



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Make fine pets.  
Need little care and feed.

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and I am using it again, as I am somewhat concerned about the way the Fancy is travelling. I think a great many people have an entirely wrong idea of what the Mouse Fancy should be, as a great majority of the hundreds of letters I have received since 1935 seem to indicate. From the beginning, I have stressed the fact that breeding Mice for exhibition is a hobby, pure and simple, to be taken up for the interest and pleasure it gives at such small cost, and that in breeding for exhibition lies its chief charm and pleasure. But I find that the majority of those who have written me about Mice are concerned only with the idea of breeding in large quantities and making as much money out of them as possible.

I have said, and I say again that, I do not believe there is sufficient demand for Colored and Marked Mice to justify anyone supposing a living can be made from them. How then do Mouse fanciers in England find such a demand for these Mice and sell so many of them? It is because they breed for exhibition, show on every possible occasion, and, naturally, people who want to do the same, buy stock from those who have proved on the show bench that their Mice are in the front rank. We must do the same over here, and although the English fanciers have a 40 year start on us, if we really mean business and breed entirely for exhibition, we also shall find that the fancy will grow, and that keen competition on the show bench will put the Mouse Fancy on at least the same level as the Cavy and Rabbit breeders have put theirs.

If fanciers, and particularly members of the Mouse Club sit back without even trying to support shows when they come along, and without making any attempt to secure classes for Mice and Rats at their local livestock shows, the fancy will be held back and prevented from taking the place it has secured in England—namely, the largest of all small stock fancies.

With the New Year just begun, it

is time for us to take stock of ourselves, and ask what we mean to do this year. **MUST** our hobby always be one which will give us large returns in cash, or is it possible that we may take up a hobby and be prepared to pay something for the enjoyment it gives us? How many of all the millions who "press the button" of a camera, and then take their films to be developed and printed, ever expect to make a cent out of their cameras, and why should Mouse fanciers be any different? A Mouse can be fed for about 3c a month, entry fees to shows cost but 20c an exhibit, and express charges are not much, owing to the light weight of the Mice in their show cages.

Now, if you want to get more pleasure from the Mouse fancy, you must exhibit, and, in order to have stock worthy of winning, you must lose all idea of risking every Mouse produced in a litter. Only the best should be kept for breeding, and no Mouse retained for that purpose which has bad type or other serious faults. Again, when I hear of fanciers with no experience of Mice purchasing seven or eight varieties to start with, I know they will end up by producing nothing much of value, since you learn more by concentrating on one or two varieties, preferable, two which can be bred together, than you will by having a large number of different kinds. With care and patience—provided the fancier begins with good stock, not the mass-production rubbish the country is full of—there is no reason in the world why in time he should not find himself winning a good many blue ribbons in keen competition. This is the thing to aim at in 1939, and the future of the Mouse Fancy depends upon what I have said above.

#### BREEDING WHITE MICE

White mice are bred in several ways, that is, there are three common breeding methods. The first is devoting a pen to five females and one male; the second method, is the removal of the female as it shows signs of pregnancy and putting it in a small pen by itself; and the third, the colony method, which is keeping a large number together, both bucks and does and only taking the young out when they are ready for sale. The first two methods mentioned are the most popular and best. The second method of removing females is satisfactory for the smaller breeder but when the breeders obtain a larger amount, it takes too much time and therefore the first method of

keeping about five does to a hutch and weaning at about 18 at 21 days is used.

### AMERICAN MOUSE FANCIERS CLUB

**NEW YORK MOUSE SHOW.** We regret this had to be cancelled owing to the death of the mother of Miss Dorothy Meyer, who was managing the show. There will, however, undoubtedly be other shows in the future, and we hope that all Club members will support them with as many entries as possible, and also specials and cash for prize money. We have a new and valuable member in Dr. J. E. Salsbury, of Charles City, Iowa, who has recently imported over 200 different breeds of Fancy mice from England, and no doubt we shall see his stock on the show bench before long. Good wishes to you all for the New Year. May you have success both in the breeding pens and also at shows.—*Rev. R. W. Ferrier, Stockport, N. Y.*

### MOULT IN HAVANAS

To K.—The Havana is an ideal utility Rabbit. It produces beautiful pelts which find a ready sale when made up into attractive garments. The carcass is also good, being well fleshed, with a minimum of bone. Havanas mature quickly, and they are, too, a first-rate exhibition breed.

The housing of the stock may be either inside or outside, but in the latter case protecting against strong sunlight should be provided, as this makes the color fade. The hutches should not be too small, weather-proof and free from draughts.

Feeding should present no difficulties, as the Havana is a hardy Rabbit and requires no coddling. They are not big eaters and good plain fare is all that is necessary.

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