

DEMAND FOR MICE IN 1945

By FREDERICK JONES, JR.

We are entering a new year—a year of great uncertainty as far as the commercial breeder of mice is concerned.

The demand for white mice will keep up as it has during the past year and for as long as the war continues. In fact, it may even increase. However, it is my belief that as soon as the war with Germany is over, the mouse business will drop off slightly and may be quite slack. When that time comes, your guess will be as good as mine as to how the market will go.

I think that the commercial mouse breeders should be commended for the great job they are doing to help win this war. Yes, they have made it possible to save many lives of our loved ones, and you can bank on it that they will keep up the good work.

Help War Effort

Little does the general public know of the tremendous part these few people have played in this war. I say few people because they are only a few when compared to the great number of people engaged in other industries. No doubt you have heard what the English people said about the aviators in England—"Never did so many owe so much to such a few." That statement can very well be applied to this business, except it is to a much fewer people that so many owe so much.

It hasn't been easy for these people to stay in business. They have had more labor trouble than any other industry, because of the fact that they cannot afford to pay high wages. The result of paying low wages meant hiring men who were eighty years old or 4F's—those who were not capable of taking a job in the higher paying industries. The mouse breeder has had to take an increased cost in feed and other material. Rubber, which is quite essential to these people, was almost unobtainable, and what they received was very poor. The priority ratings which most of these people had were of little value because they were not high enough to get the material they needed. Those in charge of giving priorities had never heard of the importance of mice. They merely thought of mice as unpleasant creatures. However, the Army knew their great need for mice and made it possible for mice breeders to get as high a priority as they needed. The Army realized that all the tanks, guns, ships, and ammunition in the world were not of any use if they didn't have healthy men behind them. Were it not for these mice it would be impossible to test the serums which have saved

the lives of so many of our boys in the Service and of civilians, too. All serums and drugs must be tested before they can be given to humans. Yes, I believe that the rest of the world, too, owes a great deal to about one thousand mouse breeders.

Outlook for 1945

The outlook for 1945 depends largely on the outcome of the war. There is no doubt that the demand for mice will slacken to some extent after the war, but how great this slack will be is difficult to tell. In occupied countries (especially in the Philippines, Japan, the islands in the Dutch East Indies, the Malay Peninsula, and last but not least, China,) there will be a demand for many products that require tests made with mice. One thing is certain, that the demand for these test mice will depend largely upon how great a surplus is left behind by our Armed Forces after the war.

It will require one year, or slightly more, after the war, before the technicians or scientists are able to resume their work, and there will be a slack period of readjustment. At present, colleges, universities, etc., do not have enough money allocated in their budget for research work. After the war, new budgets will be set up, providing for research work on new diseases and for many new projects which have developed as a result of the war.

Demand Will Increase

One can logically assume that the demand for strain mice will increase greatly after the war, that breeders who have "just mice" will be very lucky to get rid of their stock, and that, as time goes on, people who work with mice will insist on a par-

ticular strain of mice. The demand for colored mice as pets will undoubtedly increase greatly and people will again show them, the interest in them mounting so rapidly that colored mice will be on the same level as other show animals.

—O—

Although it can not be given young birds, a small piece of salt raw pork is received favorably by canaries as it satisfies a craving for animal food.

Although they are perfectly hardy in their natural state, cage birds protected from weather are somewhat enfeebled by their caged life and are susceptible to colds, becoming quickly chilled if in a draught.

ANGORA WOOL PRODUCING RABBITS

Selected Grade, Bred Does \$7.50,
Bucks \$5.00, Trio \$18.75.

FOR SALE—Mimeographed Literature, 50c: How to Feed, Breed, House (drawings and directions), Clip and Market the Wool, Castrate Bucks for Increased Wool Production. Grooming Brushes, \$1.00.

P. N. Sigmond

Kensett, Iowa

HI-FALLS FARM

BREEDER AND SHIPPER
Flemish Giants, Rufus Red Belgian
Hares, Chinchillas, Castorrex,
English Cavies.
Breeders, Fur, Meat, and Scientific Research

Upper Black Eddy, Penna.

Phone 127-F-4

MAKE \$300.00 TO \$3,000.00 A YEAR

In your back yard during spare time raising OWEI Meat and Fur Rabbits. We buy or put you in touch with other firms that will buy all you can raise. Start right now with OWEI.

OUTDOOR War Efforts Industries
OWATONNA, MINN.

MANUFACTURERS -- BREEDERS ATTENTION!

Are you interested in Western representation on a jobber or sales commission basis?

An aggressive up-to-the-minute sales advertising program will place your product in every pet shop, department and chain store in the West.

We will welcome inquiries from manufacturers of cages, aquariums, small animal supplies and accessories. Also packaged and bulk food of all types.

No item will be considered unless exclusive territorial franchises will be granted. For further information communicate with either our California or New York offices:

BOWER'S NATURAL HISTORY SUPPLY CO.

1228 - 6th Street
Santa Monica, California

1495 Popham Avenue
New York 53, New York

**AFRICAN WEAVER HAS
INTERESTING PERSONALITY**
(Continued from page 13)

back his head, his bill pointing skyward, and watches me, somewhat after the manner of a "frozen" bittern. With his head in a natural position he would thus be looking downward, and I have come to the conclusion that the placement of his eyes affords better sight of an object directly in front of him, when in this apparently awkward position.

Sometimes I see him parting his breast feathers with his beak and intently studying his "complexion."

Given a short piece of string, he is afforded hours of interest. With tireless deliberation and patience he will weave it into the bars of his cage, or holding it with one foot he will carefully tuck it under his toes, never seeming to realize that a shift of position always undoes his labor. Many a time I have had to use scissors or a razor blade in removing it.

Doesn't Like Bath
Bathing is a violent and tempestu-

FOR SALE

MAGPIES (large black and white native birds) pair 5.00

"See 'Em Alive" Zoo
Red Lodge, Montana

"JUMPING BEANS"

For Immediate Delivery

Strictly New Crop
Guaranteed All Alive.

\$2.00 Hundred, \$10.00 Thousand
Hurry Orders

Cash with order.

TONY CAVAZOS

Box 516 Laredo, Texas
pb

**Colorplates—
FANCY MICE**

Popular varieties of exhibition mice suitable for framing, size 12 by 9 inches. Many novel types of exhibition mice, including Sable, Pink-eyed Self White, Champagne, Blue and White Broken Marked, Chocolate and White Dutch, Black-eyed Self White, Self Black, Chocolate and Tan, Self Red, and Blue and White Variegated.

Printed in rich, beautiful, true-to-life colors. A nice gift for your fancier friends. Children love them; they are educational.

While they last — 15 cents each.
Order direct from

ALL-PETS MAGAZINE
2810 S. Michigan Ave.,
Chicago 16, Illinois

ous affair, and is soon over. If he is not in the mood, a repeated "Come on now. Take your bath." from my mother, will result in a hurried hop in, and out of, the water an attitude of "I've got to get this thing over with or I'll get not rest until I do" stamped all over him.

Often at his bed time I will handle him. He has lost all fear of this but still doesn't like it. Anger snaps from his intelligent brown eyes as he bites with all his strength, hanging on like a bulldog, twisting his head from side to side and squeezing his jaws together. At times he will allow himself to be stretched full length before being forced to let go. Stroking his head feathers the wrong way always quiets him down, and his grip on your finger will gradually be released, until he finally lets go, and swallows a couple of times, in apparent contentment. But the slightest move on my part will always renew the attack. An amusing trick, when in this position, is a sudden pressure by his feet against my fingers, throwing his whole body forward in a "butt" with his head against my other hand.

A word as to his "song." It consists of a series of rapid clattering two-syllable notes, climaxed by a violent expelling of the air in a painful, hissing, gurgling rattle, wrung from his whole body. It reminds me a bit of the vocal exertions of a starling.

Taking all in all, "The Chief" is a dynamic little pet that has afforded me many hours of interest and amusement.

—o—

**Rat Redeems Herself
with Heroic Action**

By R. E. (PETE) GETTYS

Having pigeons and birds around the place, I am always waging war against rats. My experience is that occasionally you find an old rat that is mighty wily and is hard to catch in any kind of trap, and consistently refuses to eat poisoned bait regardless of how temptingly you "season" it.

But nothing I had ever observed led me to think there was anything brave or heroic in a common old loathsome and destructive black rat.

But I am wondering. Yesterday afternoon I was watering some tomato plants out by the barn—saw a big rat hole and turned the water in it—in a few minutes a big rat came out and ran around the barn.

Errand of Mercy

I let the water run to see if there were any more. In a few seconds here came that old wet she rat back again, dashed in the hole, in a jiffy came back out again with a baby rat in her mouth.

This was interesting. I let the hose continue to run in the hole. In a few seconds back came the old rat,

SNAKES ALIVE!

By ARTHUR H. BRYAN

If variety is the spice of life, amateur naturalists certainly will not suffer from a monotonous existence.

The all pet biologist is also supposed to be a practical zoologist and an authority on every vertebrate that can walk, crawl, swim, fly or hop. Snakes always will be extraordinarily interesting to John Q. Public, particularly since all of our troubles started with a snake in the Garden of Eden. In fact, history is full of snakes and continued when Noah brought a couple along with him in his ark.

May Prove Worthwhile

Hence, a few facts and dispelled fancies about our friend, and occasional enemy, the snake may prove worthwhile to the busy instructor in the course of daily contacts with an interested public. When the writer was called upon recently to give a talk and demonstrate a few of these interesting reptiles, the whole subject was found to be very interesting.

Every budding biologist in poisonous snake regions should at least know the first aid, surgical and medical treatment for snake bite. There is probably no group of animals less understood, and concerning which there is more abundant misinformation than the reptile. It is principally to correct some of these false ideas that they are discussed here.

The reptiles include snakes, turtles, lizards, and crocodiles and the points in which they differ from amphibians are as follows:

1. They never breathe by gills at any stage.
2. They have no metamorphosis.
3. Their eggs are internally fertilized and have a shell, or young may be born alive.
4. The body is covered with scales.
5. Feet, if present, are provided with claws.

dashed down the hole, and immediately came out with her second young offspring. That must have been all the family she had as she never came back again.

It was a 3/4-inch hose, the nozzle was off, but there was a good big stiff stream of water, and that old rat faced it twice with a little rat in her mouth, and I was standing within a few inches of the whole operation.

I believe that old rat would have gone through fire the same way, believe it or not!

~~~~~  
When writing to advertisers  
please mention ALL-PETS  
~~~~~