



This department is devoted to pets which do not otherwise have a special section in the magazine.

The Fancy Mouse

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SECOND OF A SERIES

When breeding any kind of animal for exhibition purposes, it is necessary to have a standard of excellence as a guide. Without one, the Fancy can make no progress, and no useful comparison by the Judges is possible. A standard is usually drawn up by the recognized governing body of the Fancy, or by a specialist Club.

The standard of perfection for Fancy Mice, drawn up by "The National Mouse Club" says that "the mouse must be long in body, with long, clean head, not too fine or pointed at the nose. The eyes should be large, bold and prominent. The ears should be large and tulip shaped, free from creases, carried erect, and with plenty of width between them. The body should be long and slim, trifle arched over the loin, and racy in appearance. The tail should be free from kinks, should come well out of the back, be thick at the root or "set-on", and taper gradually like a whiplash, to a fine end. The length of the tail should be about equal to the length of the body. The coat should be short, perfectly smooth, glossy, and sleek to the hand. The mouse should be perfectly tractable and free from any vice, and not subject to fits or other similar ailments."

The above standard, when studied carefully, will give a mental picture of the ideal mouse, and when the picture becomes a reality, we have an animal which is indeed beautiful to look at, for each part of its outward make-up will blend into a perfect proportion. Type in the Fancy Mouse is certainly striking, and the impression of raciness and alertness in the healthy animal is most pleasing. Type is of utmost importance. Bad type leaves the mouse most un-attractive.

There is one point about the standard which should be explained. By reason of genetic "make-up", it isn't possible to breed all varieties of mice so that all will have equally good type as set out in the standard. Perhaps the Pink-eyed White is usually most typical, whereas varieties like, say the Dutch, are naturally of cob-bier type. Another example is that size of ears will vary according to variety. But the Judges are conversant with the possibilities, and make their decisions accordingly.

There is a very wide choice of colors or markings for the mouse fancier to select from, and for convenience sake, the varieties are divided into four sections. The first section embraces all the mice of single, recognized colors. These are termed 'selfs', and include Pink-eyed Whites, Black-eyed Whites, Blacks, Blues, Chocolates, Reds, Fawns, Champagnes, Pink-eyed Silver, Black-eyed Silvers, Doves, Lilacs, Pink-eyed Creams, and Blackeyed Creams.

The second section includes many of the 'self' colors, and some other varieties, but the feature of this sections is that all the varieties embraced have tan-colored bellies. Examples are Black and Tan, Blue and Tan, and so on. The members of the section are known as "Tans". The tan color must be rich and even all over the belly. The line of demarcation must be clear cut, and should be visible when the mouse is held at eye level.

The third section includes the mice with a marking of some sort in the coat. For instance there is a Dutch mouse marked exactly like the Dutch rabbit. Then there are Broken and Evens. The Broken has a spot of

color on the side of its nose, and other spots on its white coat, evenly placed over the body. The number of spots is not fixed, and good specimens may vary between 8 or 9 spots to maybe thirteen or so. A feature is that the spots should be solid in color and not brindled. The Even should have a balanced pattern of spots, and a central nose spot completes a good example. Another member of this "Marked" section is the Variegated. This mouse has a white coat which is marked with tiny splashes of color, like small flecks all over its coat.

The last section is for varieties not included in the other three sections. These are known as "A.O.V.'s" (any other variety), and include Agouti, Cinnamon, Chinchilla, Sable, Silver Grey, Silver Fawn, Silver Brown, Pearl, Fox and Astrex.

Although it would seem that nearly all possible colors, combinations of colors and markings, have been produced and are recognized by the "N.M.C.", the Club is still open to receive application for recognition of fresh varieties. The rule is that three specimens of the variety must be on view at a specified show, after which the Executive of the Club will decide whether or not a New Variety Certificate shall be awarded.

Next month, the different varieties will be described.

Express Agency Charges Reclassified Upwards

The Interstate Commerce Commission has approved a Reclassification of express charges so that substantial new increases have been added to LIVE ANIMALS as of January 20, 1950.

The complete details are not available at this time. A new minimum rate of \$2 per shipment will now be charged. This applies to cats, birds, pigeons, rabbits, dogs, fish, snakes, small animals, etc. Hence it is easily seen that on a small shipment the shipping costs could be more than the value of the animals.

Persons or firms doing shipping should contact their local Railway Express Agent and go over the new rates and requirements in detail. Air express should be investigated for savings, but should be used only when there is an airport at both ends.

Motor freight on heavy shipments should be investigated as well as air freight between airport cities. Shipments should be consolidated and more time and thought will have to

(Continued on next page)