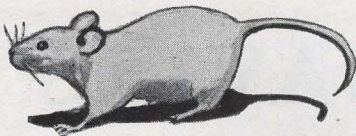


FANCY MICE



WEANING WHITE MICE

WHEN are mice old enough to be taken away from their mother? Should mice be separated according to sex when placed in the weaning pen? How long should they be left in the weaning pen? When can they be mated?

These are questions which almost every mice breeder asks at one time or another. And it is extremely important to know the answers to these questions in order to successfully raise white mice. They have a direct effect upon the health and growth, as well as the breeding life of the mice. A knowledge of what to do at this period insures the breeder of having good strong offspring and litters that are not below normal. Since these questions are of prime importance in breeding, let us find the answers to them.

Young white mice should remain unmolested in the breeding pen for a period of about two and one-half to three weeks or let us say about 16 to 21 days. Up to that time they are kept with their mother, and never touched or removed, not even in the cleaning of the pen.

After this period of time they are ready to be placed in the weaning pen. By this time their bodies are roughly, about one and one-half inch in length. They are now separated according to sex, that is the males are placed in different pens than the females. This is absolutely necessary in order to be sure of having good healthy mature stock. If the males were not kept apart from the females they would after awhile, begin to molest the females. It would have a tendency to make the females very nervous and excitable. The growth of the mice would be affected thereby. It is often this too early mating that causes females to destroy their offspring at birth or to have litters which will be scanty and weak. Therefore, they should be separated and remain in different pens until they are from six to eight weeks old, when the raiser can place the males with the females for breeding and without

harming or bringing injury to them.

Another precautionary measure which should be taken during the weaning period of a mouse is in not overcrowding the pen. When they are this age they are very active and do quite a bit of running, jumping, and climbing. This, of a necessity, demands that they have ample room for their activities. If given a sufficient amount of room they will grow and thrive much better than if overcrowded at all.

Therefore, let us always keep in mind to (1) leave the young in the breeding pen for 16 to 21 days, according to their size and development; (2) to separate the males from the females when placing them in weaning pen; (3) avoid overcrowding.—*J. M. Herbert.*

RODENT MYTHS

Proving the myth that a White Mouse in the home will keep it free from black members of the species is a very interesting subject to dwell on. Discussion and debate rate highly as to the distant relation of albino Mice and the common home or black mice.

I have conducted experiments with each of these distant related rodents and recall on one occasion, when one day I saw an invader slip through a knot hole in the floor of my mousery, that it was much similar in many respects to the albino Mice which I have raised for the past decade for experiments in medical centers. At that time, I decided to prove to myself the true facts about both species.

I quickly placed a wire box trap on the floor and snared the intruder. I placed the captive black in a cage with a female albino Mouse and noticed at first no inclination to fight on either species part. I was very surprised at the conduct of both Mice because I had placed them in such close relation to each other immediately after catching the black Mouse.

In many instances I recall among my albino Mice, that when a male or female Mouse placed in different

cages, they were inclined to fight. At times I had to remove the strange mouse from the close contact for a few days by placing it inside a small wire box inside the cage.

Knowing these facts, I was amazed

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to see how friendly these two distant related Mice were. They became very friendly from the start and in three weeks the result was a litter of solid black Mice that had all the characteristics of the male parent.

I have always had the theory that albinos are to the wild Rats and Mice as a very tame house Cat is to the tiger family and proved it in this experiment. I had some-how hoped to produce a litter of black and white Mice. However, I was unsuccessful in this, because none of the litter showed any signs of being partly white.

Through this experiment I had proven the myth about rodents and know that albino and many kinds of White Mice and Rats are used *successfully* for the development of serums in hospitals, universities, and medical centers all over the world but could not be used *successfully* for keeping homes free from black members.—*J. P. Keller.*

WHITENESS IN RABBITS

The most common sort of whiteness, in rabbits, is the pink-eyed type, as seen in Polish. This is brought about by the operation of a single gene, which, somehow or other inhibits the production of an enzyme (or ferment) which must be present in the animal if color is to show up at all. The gene behaves as a simple Mendelian recessive to what we may regard as the normal gene for *full* color production—that is to the production of both black (or rather melanic) and yellow pigment. It also behaves in the same way towards "Chinchillation," "Ghost" and "Himalayanism." The four characters, Full Pigmentation, Chinchillation, Ghost and Himalayanism, are, in fact, best regarded as a series of steps towards complete albinism (pink-eyed white). In the Chinchilla, only yellow is eliminated. In the Ghost, yellow and some black. In the Himalayan, yellow and black, except where black shows up at the points. And finally all pigment disappears in the pink-eyed white.

Cleanliness is of greatest importance in mouse breeding. Keep your pens clean and dry. Use a bedding and clean out the pen once or twice a week as needed. Keep your feeding containers clean, scald them and wash well, and keep your mousery clean and well ventilated.

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