

just as the children of today are the citizens of tomorrow, so the young rabbits make for future dependability, as far as the continuity of one's rabbit business is concerned.

Cod liver oil is highly recommended for Vitamin A and D. It is now used to a large extent in all animal feeds where care is being taken as to what is being fed.

Vitamin B has to do with weight, strength in general, and also the nerves. Most all rabbit breeders have stock once in a while which appears to be nervous and restless. Especially may this apply to does that neglect their young, consume them, or throw them out of the nest; also to bucks and does having a tendency to "fight" every time one approaches them or tries to handle those "restless" and some times furious specimens. That old idea of "spanking" seldom does a bit of good, and those who have tried that method on unruly stock have not succeeded very far in curbing the pugilistic specimens. Sometimes we are inclined to think it is the nature of the rabbit, when more than likely, if the breeder would give a little consideration to those fighting and nervous spasms, correct the diet by making some sort of a change in feed, learning as much as one can about various rabbit feeds and to what they contribute, it would help to correct, and even "cure" some of those rabbits with militaristic tendencies. Remember, the rabbit is not "angry," it is out of condition; it is a thing that needs correcting by the breeder. The rabbit itself cannot help it. The breeder is the caretaker.

The poor animal eats what it is fed; so, after all, the breeder many times is more or less at fault for many of the apparent ugly habits of the rabbits. Would the breeder, if he were suffering from a certain malady, continue to take certain food if he knew it could be corrected by a change in diet? Certainly not if he were true to himself—he would correct his diet. That's what should be borne in mind so far as the live-stock business is concerned. It might be well to think this over. To some these suggestions may be new, but upon investigation and test, they will be found to be facts, and facts are stubborn things. Nature is "firm" and "pat" in her ways. We cannot work against her and accomplish success. If we work with nature, she will work with us. Cereals, spinach, tomato juice (mixed with mash) and certain green vegetables afford an ample supply of Vitamin B. (To be continued next month)

FANCY MICE



HOW TO HANDLE MICE

By C. Frank Fayne, Shaker Heights, Ohio

MICE, at best, are very poor pets unless thoroughly tamed. The fancier finds he has quite a time making mice into pets unless they are gentled sufficiently to permit easy handling, petting, etc. Most people are afraid of mice and prefer to view them from a distance. And, to be sure, mouse behavior is rather limited, especially when the subjects are confined to small cages. So, it behooves the fancier to tame his mice and make real pets of them.

Handling mice is a problem to the uninitiated. Before the mice have been tamed, the only way they can be caught and picked up is by the tail and swung gently into the palm of the hand. It is best to grasp the lower end of the tail at the base. The tail should not be pinched, jerked or snapped. It should be held firmly but gently between the fingers, and the mouse should be slowly lifted out of the cage and placed on an observation platform or in the palm of the hand.

It will be found that young mice are frightened at being handled in this manner and may squeal and kick before being set down. But don't let this worry you unless they don't become accustomed to it. This is one way to learn if your pets have the proper temperament for show or pet stock. It is unfair to condemn a mouse too soon. Sometimes young mice will bite rather severely when first handled. Mark well any mouse which bites. If they do it the second time they should be destroyed immediately. You are endangering your reputation as a breeder and putting a black-eye on the mouse fancy if you breed from or sell such specimens.

Mice, like dogs, like to have their heads scratched behind the ears. I have had several who could be put to sleep by gently petting them in this manner. It takes time and patience to make a real pet of a mouse, and like most animals, it should be started on the right road when quite young. After the nest has been culled to two or three mice,

they may be handled every other day, and it will be found that when their eyes open, they will be less afraid. Then, when they are picked up for the first time, they will have no fear of the human hand.

If mice are petted and handled every day, they soon come to look forward to it and make quite a fuss at feeding time. I have one pet that waits for me every day in the corner of his cage; his front paws clinging to the wire. I merely reach in and place my thumb and forefinger under his front feet, and he hangs on "for dear life" until I swing the palm of my hand under his hind feet.

My experience has shown me that contrary to popular belief, White mice are not the tamest or smartest. I have had very good luck in taming my present strain of Chocolates. They are very high inbred, yet they are the least nervous and are the tamest of all the mice I have ever owned.

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