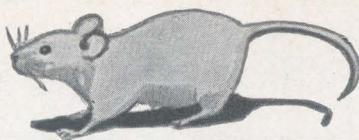


FANCY MICE



SELECTION FOR SIZE

By C. Frank Fayne, Shaker Heights, Ohio

IF THE fancier has followed the rigid culling system outlined in my article of last month, he will now have two or three, or at the most, four fine young mice in the nest. And, what a difference in growth and health they represent! If the does are good feeders, the youngsters will be as fat as "little pigs." It should be a real treat to the eye of the true fancier to see his efforts rewarded with baby mice that really grow.

With the litters reduced to two or three, one will find that the youngsters are old enough and big enough to wean at three weeks of age, but I do not recommend such practice. True, the youngsters are eating and drinking a little, and if they had to, they could fend for themselves. However, my experience has proven to me that they will be better prepared to grow and develop if they are left with the doe from 30 to 35 days. Then we can be certain there will be no setback in their growth when they are placed on their own.

This is most important. These young mice must not have a stoppage in their growth from the time they are born until they are 100 days old. If fed and weaned properly, they will continue to grow until that age. During the last five or six days the young are with their mother they will be helping themselves to the bread and milk, and the fancier should see that they have ample oatmeal to nibble as soon as their eyes are well opened.

This is fed when they are 10 days old. They are quick to recognize this oatmeal as food and it will help in getting them weaned.

As soon as the fancier feels it is safe to wean the young mice, they should be placed in a cage by themselves and fed a liberal supply of oatmeal, canary seed and fresh whole milk to drink at all times. A dog biscuit may be kept in the cage for them to nibble. The whole milk may be alternated with bread and milk. Gradually the canary seed may be supplemented with whole oats until at the end of 65 days they may be given the regular diet of bread and milk and grain. If this diet is followed to the letter, if your young mice have not been weaned too early, if they have been born of sound healthy animals of good heritage, their growth should be fast enough to be almost perceptible. This should delight the true fancier. Here he has two or three fine young animals worth at least 50c apiece instead of a dozen worth the same price. Make up your mind, fellow fancier, which will you have?

As soon as you have weaned the young mice, the does should be mated again—at once. There are those who feel that they should have a rest after rearing the young, but if they have been allowed to rear only two or three, they will be in good condition and not drained of their vitality. Then too, if one waits too long between matings, it will be found that the does' oestrus cycles will be thrown out of line and they will be difficult to impregnate. There is also the danger of permitting the does to become too fat, in which state they are often sterile.

I have tried to outline in these articles a system of breeding and feeding that will produce larger and finer mice for shows and as pets. It is only by so doing that we can hope to put the mouse fancy on a worthwhile basis. In all livestock groups we find two types of breeders: Those who breed for the fancy, and those who turn out large lots of inferior

animals for the pet shops. This latter group are known in the dog fancy as puppy farmers. It seems silly to class anyone as a mouse farmer, yet we cannot help but feel that it is very much the same idea.

Next month, HOW TO HANDLE MICE.

The American Mouse & Rat Fanciers' Association

It is high time we started preparations for the coming fall and winter mouse shows. Mouse fanciers, contact your local fair secretaries, and inquire regarding the inclusion of Mouse Classes in the poultry & rabbit departments of your fair.

We should also have a national mouse show in connection with some prominent rabbit or poultry show. If the mouse and rat fanciers will furnish their own uniform Maxie-type cages, and if the club will furnish the ribbons and premiums, there should be little or no objection to our staging mouse shows at poultry, pigeon and rabbit exhibitions throughout the country.

It is up to the individual fanciers to contact the show and fair secretaries in their particular locality. Let me hear the results on these contacts.

Many fanciers are still outside the ranks of the A. M. & R. F. A., and we must remind these fanciers that only those who are members in good standing will be eligible for our premiums at the various shows and fairs.

I will be awaiting further developments of these proposed shows, and results will continue to appear in the ALL-PETS MAGAZINE, recognized Mouse and Rat news headquarters for America, to be sure.—Gerald Franklin Wright, Sec'y., American Mouse & Rat Fanciers Ass'n., 915 South Farwell Street, Eau Claire, Wis.

RAISE ANGORA RABBITS

(Continued from page 87)

to have one to a hutch, but often growers have two. A hutch for one should not be less than 30 inches by 36, and 18 inches high. They may be built of 1x6 inch boards, planed smooth on the side to the rabbits. If they are left rough, much wool will be caught on the roughness and pulled off. In a large rabbitry it is more economical to build hutches three or four high.

If they are four tiers high, the roof of the top one should be six feet above the ground which is as high as most

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