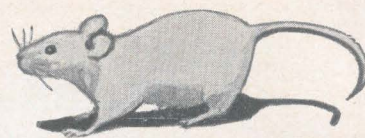


The April Issue—The Annual Easter Edition—will be featured by a beautiful front cover design of a Rabbit, a pet symbolic of the season. Advertise your stock in this number and get your share of the profits in the trade. Sales will be booming in 1941.

FANCY MICE



Show Mouse Requisites

By C. Frank Fayne

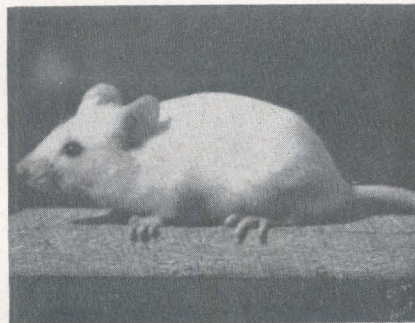
Now that a mouse club is under way, we may as well place in mind the things that make for real show quality. The prime requisite of a show mouse is his size. He must be bigger in all respects than the others in order to make him stand out. A good show specimen must be at least 8 inches long, and preferably 9 inches long from nose to tail tip. Mice of this size with the proper bone and frame to support such length are rare indeed.

Also, the skull, ears and eyes should be equally large and in proportion to the rest of the mouse. Mice with good broad skulls and plenty of space between the ears are in the minority. The further the ears are apart, the better. The eyes should fairly pop out of the face and the ears should flare out at about a 60° angle.

Show mice should weigh at least one ounce, and larger and finer show animals will weigh closer to two ounces.

The breeding of show mice is a real pleasure and it offers some real opportunity for the animal breeder to test his breeding skill—and, it cannot be done over night. Mice as above described are the result of patient effort, time and energy.

While we are getting size in our mice, let's get some tame mice—not these jumpy, scared to death, shrinking, cringing, snappy, nasty tempered wild ones that are the feature of low grade pet shops. After all, mice may be handled by children



and, therefore, they should have good dispositions. Most people have never seen a grade "A" show mouse with the proper coat, skull, frame, and disposition, thus it is the duty of every mouse fancier to breed animals which will attract others to the fancy and destroy the natural fear that many possess of mice. Let's make the mouse fancy for fancy mice only. Next month we will discuss "Selection For Size."

Hutch Screens

It will soon be time for the pesky mosquito again. This time the buzzing insect that sounds like a miniature airplane appears as the carrier of a germ that causes myxomatosis, a disease fatal to domestic rabbits.

Several years ago, the rabbit industry of Southern California reported severe losses from myxomatosis, but didn't know what to do about it. After Dr. Edward L. Vail, a wildlife-disease expert of the Fish and Wildlife Service, found that mosquitoes were important carriers of the death-dealing rabbit disease, he suggested that commercial rabbitries install screens on their hutches.

Rabbit raisers who have screened

their hutches have reported no animals dying from myxomatosis.

What is worrying Dr. Vail, however, is the problem of how the organism that causes the disease lives during the winter, when the mosquito population is low. To determine whether wild animals are also carriers, Dr. Vail has begun a series of experiments on various species taken from the wild. With the aid of Federal funds, he will study ground squirrels, marmots, field mice, and other rodents to determine whether the offending organism is found in these animals.

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