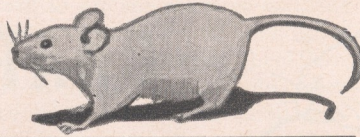


# FANCY MICE



## Shipping Hints

When packing mice, it is necessary first to obtain or construct some type of crate which is suitable for expressing. That is, it must be sturdy and well made but still not too heavy, never waste a lot of weight on the crate. It is possible to obtain crates such as raisin boxes which are not heavy but still are strong enough to stand handling in transit. After the crate has been obtained, it is necessary to determine the number of mice to pack without overcrowding.

The time of the year and weather conditions which prevail at the time of shipping are big factors in deciding on the number to ship. In warm weather they should not be packed quite as full as in the winter. It is possible to pack approximately 100 white mice in a crate 2 ft. x 4 ft.

The container which is used for delivery should be high enough so that the mice can climb about and that they can get the proper ventilation. A box that is too low does not allow the proper amount of space for the welfare of the mice. Many losses in shipping come from this source.

Feeding is possibly the most important item to be considered when transporting mice, it is one of the things which raisers do not seem to

know much about. The lack of the proper amount of food and correct kind are the reason for the failure of many shipments to reach their destination in good condition.

Some moisture-containing food should be used when shipping, rather than placing water in the crate which will in all likelihood be spilled, making the bedding damp. Beets or potatoes are very good for this purpose and should be used. As to the balance of the food, it is best to give the mice the same feed which has been used in the pen. A good idea is to place enough nourishment to allow for one day more than it takes the shipment to arrive at its destination. You can average about 500 miles a day for shipments. In other words, for a shipment to go 1,000 miles it would take two days, but enough food would be placed in the crate to last for three days.

It is best to use fine wire screening for enclosing the box rather than nailing it shut with boards which would possibly cut off their air supply or present an opportunity for them to escape.

## Fancy Mouse Origin

The following are reasons for believing that the fancy mouse descended from the house mouse.

In the first place the house mouse, in a wild state varies greatly in color. It has many shades from light silver to a warm sandy brown, besides albino forms, which appear to be fairly common. Some of these have been caught. On the other hand, the wood mouse, of which there is one subspecies (the yellow-necked or De Winton's mouse) is, as far as has been heard and seen, fairly consistent in color, being sandy brown above with a whitish belly.

Next consider type a deciding factor: The house mouse and the fancy mouse being exactly alike in this respect but for the more finished appearance of the well-bred fancy mouse. The wood mouse is altogether of a more racy type, longer on the leg, finer in the head, and really a smarter looking mouse than either the house or the fancy mouse.

## Hooded Rats

"Hooded" rats are those with partially colored coats. Spotting does not generally occur in rats as it does in mice, but Hooded rats can be had in almost any combination of color with white, which is predominant. The head can be colored and sometimes a narrow stripe of color runs down the back, oft-times extending to the tail.

Cinnamon rats are Agoutis of a lighter color which varies in all shades of brown. Being of an Agouti type, the coat will have the "Ticked" appearance.

## Agouti Mice

Agouti is a name given to mice having a coat color the same as mice in their wild state. It is a "Barring" or "Ticking" of singular hairs giving the coat a different color in various parts of it. The underside is usually devoid of this Agouti appearance. The absolute absence of this color gives a mouse the title of "Self" colored. Selves are uniformly colored with a solid color — black, brown, etc. Albinos are not regarded as Selves.



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