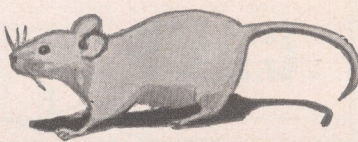


FANCY MICE



Breed Fancy Mice With Care

SCIENCE is a word we use too readily today, so that for many people it has acquired an almost magic sound with a new and in some cases a bogus connotation. It is well to remember that word science just means knowledge. A great deal which passes for science is only hypothesis.

In mouse breeding this is particularly true. A hundred different theories are propounded and followed by some breeders though they know it is yet to be shown that the theory is sound. Take the question of mating for type:

Some fanciers say: Mate an old doe to a young buck; others say the young doe to the old buck, and this is considered an all-important thing. But on reflection it must be obvious to anyone that it is not all-important. Obviously it is not enough to put a doe to the best looking buck you can find—even though he may be perfect himself and perhaps the sire of perfect youngsters—unless he is suitable as a mate for your particular doe. That is the main consideration. You must study his make-up. Unless you know that, you are lost to start with. If you do know, compare it with that

of the doe before you come to any sound decision. Even then you may be wrong, but at least you have a guide.

You should know the strain from which come the good points or your buck as you should know the strain which gives the weak points of your doe. Thus you will be able to conjecture reasonably whether one will correct the other in the progeny.

In this respect a common mistake of the breeder is to expect too much from the buck. It is not sufficiently realized that the doe plays as great if not a greater part than the male, and that a doe of bad breeding will invariably have more bad than good youngsters no matter to how perfect a buck she is mated. It takes two to make the litter, and the dam is certainly not to be ignored.

Then comes line breeding, which we should define as selective in-breeding. You keep to the same strain but do not necessarily go so close as in normal in-breeding. Line breeding is productive of good results; close in-breeding, to which most breeders resort, is, in many opinions, strongly depreciated. Good results in type and form will never compensate for loss of stamina which persistent inbreeding too often renders irrevocable.

Health and virility are obvious points yet often overlooked. No doe should be mated unless in first class condition. Moreover the buck must be vigorous. A too popular stud buck is apt to be over-used, and any decline in virility will be manifested in the young.

There is the theory that to secure a higher proportion of does in a litter young does should be mated to old bucks, but few proofs of this (if any) have been established. Practical experience remains the best guide.

Pet Mice Are Varied

Domestic mice available at present in America and Europe fall into two distinct groups and belong to two distinct species. The common, large types of fancy mice are all derived from the house mouse, *Mus musculus*. These, at present exceptionally popu-

lar, have reached a high degree of selection of type form and color, mainly through the efforts of English fanciers. The best of these are large in size, elegant in form and of a wide variety of very attractive colors. They represent a very wide departure, indeed, from their humble little ancestor.

The other, rarer type of domestic mouse is the so-called Dancing or Waltzing mouse, *Mus wagneri*. The tiny black and white spotted Japanese Waltzing mice are the best known of this group of pet mice. All of these are very small in size—less than half the size of good specimens of house mice. In addition to being small in size, the *wagneri* are graceful in form and extremely active. Their activity is largely a very swift dancing or waltzing in circles. This they continue through their waking hours—a dizzy whirl; and barely take time to eat and drink. The Waltzing mouse should be bred very small and active so that their special entertaining feature, the dance, may be well developed. They are the bantams of the domestic mouse tribe. At present the Waltzing mice are also bred in a variety of attractive colors.

Cages For Mice

The types of cage in which the animals are kept are varied, some being excellent; others the reverse. In the past no other method was ever thought of except that of the wooden box with some holes in the lid, and one in either end, covered with perforated zinc, "quite a useful type" no doubt some of the older breeders will say. But it is one which often causes the animals to become sweated through lack of ventilation, and this is where the racks come in useful, since abundant air may pass between the cages. Another drawback to a cage on which the lid must be removed for feeding is that of having to take the cages off the shelf. Where there is no shelving it is worse still, as the cages are then stacked one on top of the other, all having to be moved before feeding can be done.

A much better type of cage in use to-day is one which might be termed self contained, i.e., the animals may be fed from the front by means of a hinged door or a wire frame. This expedites matters very much in feeding and also allows the little occupants to be seen.

When writing to advertisers
please mention ALL-PETS

DEER MICE

We breed pink-eyed Orange, Salmon, Ivory, Albino, Black-eyed Spotted, Golden - Brown, White - Headed, No Mousey Odor.

English Mice in rare colors. Orange-Hooded and Silver-Black Rats.

Beautility Farm

Box 655 Battle Creek, Michigan

MANATEE MOUSERY

FANCY MICE ALL COLORS

Make fine pets.
Need little care and feed.

Howard Jones

324 Central Street
PALMETTO -:- FLORIDA