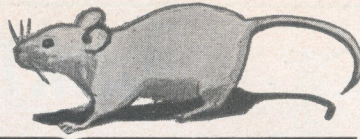


FANCY MICE



STARTING OUT IN FANCY MICE

AT THIS time of the year, when the thoughts of many return to breeding activities, those who contemplate beginning the breeding of Fancy Mice may find help in the following suggestions on getting a proper start in the fancy. The problems of the beginner are three-fold; First, variety to choose; second, where to get them; and third, how to get the best results. Let us consider these points:

The variety you choose will depend on what variety appeals most to you, and whether it is available. By starting with one variety, or at the most, two, one becomes more expert, and the results are usually better. Many varieties mean many cages, bewilderment in trying to master so many kinds at once, and the fancier often loses heart because he is attempting to do more than he should at the outset. Self mice, such as Black or Red, etc., produce on the whole more good specimens, but their final color sometimes takes three or four months to develop. Marked mice have the advantage that the markings of the young can be seen in a few days, when those of no value for breeding can be destroyed. No one, however, can predict the result of any mating, and mice that have given a good litter may have a poor one the next time. There are few, if any, Broken or Variegated strains in this country of real value for fancy purposes, though it would be a good thing if some would get hold of what is available and try to build them up. Tans are very attractive, and a good Self mouse of the same color is not to be despised for occasional crossing with the Tans. Ticked varieties, such as Agoutis, Cinnamons, Chinchillas have their strong supporters, and a late variety, Astrex, with curly hair and whiskers, will find favor with some.

Go to a fancier with a good strain of the kind you want, and tell him of your wishes. The reliable breeder is a helpful breeder and will get you started right. It is well to remember that one does not expect mice "fit for show" for about \$1.50 a pair, but good, typical breeding specimens. Mice increase rapidly so that a pair

at this price or a little more is dirt cheap, but no one with experience thinks that every litter is going to be full of "winners." Your best protection is the integrity of the seller and the reputation of his strain. When buying, for example, Dutch mice, bear in mind that a mouse with only one earmark which is good may breed better youngsters than one which has two poor ones.

After getting a reply to your inquiries for stock, don't wait for weeks before sending for mice, as you may find those you wanted and could have had, are sold. When you order mice, state definitely the variety you want and quote the price already given you.

"Panda" Colored Mice

An enterprising English fancier sent the following to English publisher Fur and Feather:

"Please find enclosed a cheque for one pound as a prize for the best pair of mice marked as the Giant Panda.

"I do not think that this definition requires any argument, except perhaps that the Giant Panda is black and white, whereas in the case of mice the colors can be any two colors."

MANATEE MOUSERY FANCY MICE ALL COLORS

Make fine pets.
Need little care and feed.

Howard Jones
324 Central Street
PALMETTO -:- FLORIDA

White and Fancy Mice

Many Colors—10c to 25c each.

Why pay more?

White and Hooded Rats, Chinchilla
and New Zealand White Rabbits
50 years with pets.

EVERETT CASTER
SAVANNAH NEW YORK

Pneumonia vs. Balantidium Coli

By C. B. Collins, Lincoln, Neb.

A rose by any other name would probably smell as sweet, and death by pneumonia is just as fatal as death by *Balantidium coli*, but just for the sake of keeping the record straight, it might be well to point out that pneumonia is a respiratory infection caused by *Pneumococcus* bacteria, while *Balantidium coli* is a parasitic protozoan in the intestine.

I agree with Mr. Carnochan in his July cavy article, as to the importance of clean feed, but I believe he has misnamed the trouble caused by filth in the feed. We lost hundreds of cavies ourselves before we learned the cause. (We were using wet mash which is even harder to keep clean than dry feed.) A post mortem of several of the dead animals by examining some of the contents of the intestine under the microscope disclosed many of the egg-shaped bluish-white protozoans swimming about or resting in spherical form. These are the mysterious *Balantidium coli* which nobody claims to know very well, but which are somehow associated with the quick death of the cavies. An infected cavy spreads the encysted protozoans in its excrement where they may be picked up by another cavy. The protozoans then multiply—the cavy sickens and dies.

This affliction acts almost as quickly as pneumonia, but it is not accompanied by the gasping for breath so characteristic of pneumonia. Instead, the cavy simply dies, sometimes with its feet still under it and sometimes by falling quietly over on its side.

An occasional *Balantidium* may be found even in healthy animals, so there is always a chance that an epidemic may start if conditions are favorable to it. It usually starts gradually by one or two animals becoming sick and refusing to eat. They may live for nearly a week before they die, but as more animals become more heavily infected the epidemic starts in earnest and a sick animal is usually dead within a few hours.

There is no remedy for a badly afflicted cavy, but the epidemic can be stopped promptly as soon as some way is provided whereby the cavies can be prevented from eating the excrement of infected cavies. That is the advantage of Mr. Carnochan's cavy dishes, and it is the reason why it is so vitally important to keep the cavy's feed and water clean.