

# Creature Comforts

## A Home for Laboratory Mice



CAGE CHANGING

When moving mice to a clean cage, biosafety cabinets protect the animal, personnel, and environment with specialized airflow and filtration systems that prevent contamination.



CAGE SIZING

Small animals need space too. There are regulations in place that indicate the amount of space each animal needs and the maximum number of animals per cage. This ensures they are able to perform species-typical behavior.



BEDDING SELECTION

There are many bedding options to keep research mice warm and comfortable in their cage, including corn-cob bedding, wood chips, and paper bedding. It is important to select bedding that promotes animal welfare by encouraging species-typical behavior such as nest building and burrowing. Certain bedding even comes mixed with paper twists that mice can make into nests. Small squares of woven cotton can be added which are not only used to build nests, but have been found to reduce stress and help animals maintain their temperature.

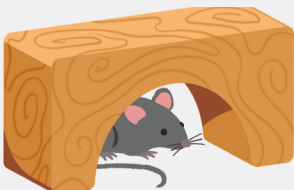


FOOD

Food pellets are specifically formulated to meet the nutritional needs of mice at various stages, such as pregnancy. There are even medicated diets available to make treating animals for health conditions easier and less stressful.

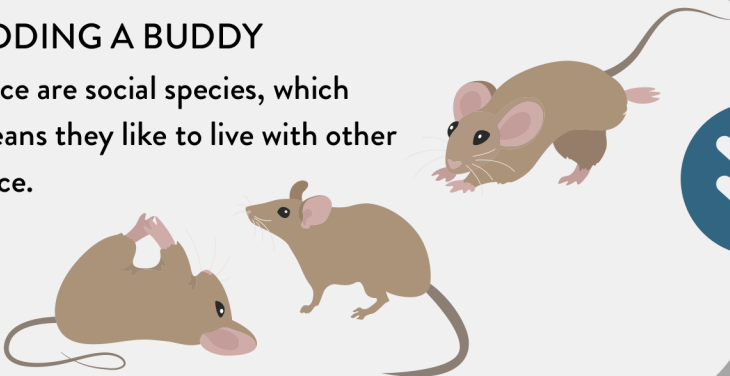
WATER

The water provided to research animals often goes through multiple treatment steps to ensure it is clean such as reverse osmosis, UV irradiation, chlorination, and acidification.



ENRICHMENT

From huts and toys to running wheels and wooden blocks for chewing, mice are provided with many types of enrichment to improve their welfare, reduce stress, and provide entertainment



ADDING A BUDDY

Mice are social species, which means they like to live with other mice.



NOT ALL HEROES WEAR CAPES

Mice have and continue to play a key role in animal research that has led to medical advancements for humans and animals. Their anatomical and physiological similarities to humans have made them an excellent animal model of various diseases, from cancer and diabetes to mental health disorders and addiction. Nearly every medication used in humans was developed with the help of these small but mighty creatures. Thank you to mice for being true animal research heroes.