

MOUSE FACTS

Learn more about Edward

- **Size:** 2" or 5cm. **Colour:** Light brown to black.
Legs: 4. **Common Name:** House mouse.
Kingdom: Animalia. **Phylum:** Chordata.
Class: Mammalia. **Order:** Rodentia. **Family:** Muridae.
Species: Musculus Domesticus
- Mice have a pointed snout, small rounded ears, and a long, almost hairless tail.
- There are more than 30 known species of mice.
- The house mouse is the best-known type of mouse and is a popular pet variety.
- Mice are usually nocturnal animals with very good hearing and smell. There is conflicting information on whether they have good eyesight, or not.
- Mice have a number of predators including cats, wild dogs, foxes, birds of prey, and snakes. In New Zealand the predators are restricted to cats and dogs, stoats and ferrets.
- In the wild, mice are herbivores that eat all kinds of fruit and grains from plants. House mice primarily feed on plants, but they will also eat meat and dairy products. They will drink water but require very little of it. When it comes to food, mice are choosy. They like to eat their favorite foods first and separate out the things that they don't like as much.
- Mice tails can grow as long as their bodies.
- Mice use their whiskers to sense changes in temperature and to help feel the surface they are walking along.
- Mice build very complex burrows with long entrances and many escape routes. They are very clean and tidy rodents with their burrows often having separate areas for storing food, sleeping and going to the toilet. Mice have small defined living areas.
- Mice will only travel about 8m or 25 feet from their home to reach their food source. In times of scarce food, they may travel further, but it is not as common.
- A mouse eats 15 - 20 times a day therefore they usually build their homes close to food sources.
- Mice and rats are the most commonly used animals in laboratories for scientific experiments.
- The mouse is a delicacy in eastern Zambia and northern Malawi, where they are eaten as a source of protein.
- Because they have so many predators, mice usually only live for about six months in the wild. In a lab or as a pet they can live for two to four years.
- In 1928, Walt Disney's Micky Mouse was the first mouse character to be used in children cartoons and animation. Mouse characters have remained popular since with other such as Speedy Gonzales, Jerry from Tom and Jerry, Stuart Little and now Edward Mouse: Adventurer.
- Most mice are very good jumpers. They can jump nearly 18 inches (46 cm) in the air. They also are talented climbers and swimmers.
- While communicating with each other, mice make ultrasonic as well as regular sounds.
- A mouse's heart can beat 632 beats per minute. A human heart only beats 60 to 100 beats per minute.
- Mice live in groups. If you have one, then you very likely have a little family living in your house or garage. There is a social hierarchy in the group especially in the males of the species.
- Mice are territorial creatures. They will mark their territory with their urine just like dogs.
- Mice can get in almost anywhere. A mouse can squeeze into the tiniest of areas, as small as 1/4 of an inch or 1/2 cm. This is the size of a pencil eraser. They only have to fit their skull in the hole, the rest of their body will easily fit through.
- Mice can easily climb up a brick wall to enter your home. They will travel to the second or third floor of your house by climbing up the sheetrock, wood beams and insulation within your walls. They will also use their whiskers to feel their way along surfaces as well as pick up on any changes in the air. They will run along the walls for safety reasons.
- Rats and mice are fast learners, and rats can solve problems as quickly as dogs can.
- They're also very friendly animals who can feel happy and scared—just like us.
- Rescued rats and mice love their families and even get sad if they're separated from their human friends.
- They also have awesome memories. Even though rats have poor eyesight, once they figure out a path, they never forget it.
- They're super-clean animals—they groom themselves several times a day.
- They also communicate with sounds that can't be heard by the human ear.
- Mice love to play together, wrestle, and sleep curled up with their friends.

