

TRAITS

Other Names:

common house mouse and domestic house mouse.

House Mouse

Ears. Relatively large ears for its size. They hear very well in both sonic and ultrasonic ranges.

Eyes. Eyes are small and somewhat protruding. Mice are color blind and can only recognize objects up to 10 feet away.

Body. Body is small, pear-shaped and slender, 2 to 3½ inches (5 to 9 cm) long. Average weight is 5/8 to 1 ounce (18 to 28 g).

Teeth. The gnaw pattern of mice is less than 1/16 inch.

Color. Generally grayish-brown on top. The underside is a light cream color.

Tail. The tail is 3 to 4 inches (7 to 10 cm) long, semi-naked and longer than the head and body combined.



Geographic Range

Throughout the United States and south of the boreal forest in Canada.

Whiskers. Whiskers on the face and guard hairs on the sides and back help an animal with poor eyesight stay safely against walls, under objects, and in burrows. Whiskers are also used to detect motion and test surfaces, e.g., glue traps, before stepping on them.

Droppings. Droppings have pointed ends and are about 1/4 inch (.64 cm) or less in length. Fresh droppings are soft and dark in color. A house mouse averages 50 droppings per day.



Food Preferences and Consumption.

Omnivores. Seeds (preferred food), cereal grains, fruits, vegetables and meats. Mice frequent many feeding sites – often 20 to 30 – during their active period, eating small amounts of food from each site. Daily consumption: 1/10 ounce. Water is not essential to survival if food contains at least 16 percent moisture.

Habits. Excellent climbers. Can be found in cultivated fields, at or below ground level, or in upper stories of skyscrapers. Mice explore their limited home range of less than 30 feet daily for newly introduced objects. Nocturnal. Most activity and feeding takes place between a half hour after sunset and a half hour before sunrise. Strong social hierarchy. Able to swim.

MOUSE FACTS

Mice can survive an 8-foot fall onto a hard surface.

A mouse travels 12 feet per second.

COMPARISON

Young Norway Rat

(*Rattus norvegicus*)



House Mouse

(*Mus musculus*)

