

Hopping Mice Information Care Sheet



Check list

- Tank or terrarium
- Water & Food Bowls
- Sand
- Mite treatments
- Logs
- Hideouts
- Hay for house building
- Mouse food mix
- Supplements
- Cave ornament
- Parrot dry fruit mix
- Meal worms

Hopping Mice are a perfect introduction to anyone interested in the keeping of Australian Native Mammals. The common species kept at Passion for Pets is the Mitchell's Hopping Mouse (*Notomys mitchelli*), and these are easily acquired on a Basic Wildlife License. With their big ears, long legs and tail and impressive hopping ability, they could almost pass for a miniature kangaroo. Although nocturnal, these animals are often seen foraging around in the early hours of the morning and sometimes the late afternoon, and their antics are both comical and fascinating to watch.

Handling

Because they are small and delicate animals, Hopping Mice should be handled gently. As they are generally easily startled, care must be taken to not to pick them up by their tails. This may cause them to thrash and jump resulting in possible injury to the tail shaft. Instead it is best to gently cup them in your hand or grasp them in a canvas bag or other material. They can bite if threatened but are generally unlikely to. Unlike domestic mice, hopping mice are never completely tame, although with a little patience some animals may eventually calm down enough to sit in the palm of your hand or hand feed tasty treats.

Housing

Various suitable housing for Hopping Mice include glass tanks (preferable with a mesh lid to prevent escape) and glass reptile terrariums. Wood and plastic are generally not suitable because of their ability to chew through these materials quite quickly. A terrarium approximately 50x50x40cm is suitable for two individuals but as these mice are quite social (best kept in groups of 3-5) a larger terrarium may be required. Fine sand should be used for flooring as coarse sand or gravel can injure sensitive feet as the animals burrow and hop around. Aspen bedding is also a good alternative although best used in nesting boxes and burrow sites.

Heating

Hopping Mice generally don't require heat as they will huddle together to keep warm, although one individual on its own or animals kept below 15°C will need an infrared heat lamp. Do not place the enclosure near a window or this may result in overheating which is dangerous to your Hopping mouse.

Feeding

Hopping Mice are active creatures and need access to fresh food at all times. A quality commercial mouse mix or parrot fruit and nut mix combined with fresh fruit and vegetables such as carrot, apple, corn, broccoli, sweet potato

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and fungi such as mushrooms, will form a balanced diet for your mouse. For added nutrition and stimulation invertebrates such as crickets, moths and mealworms, as well flowers like bottlebrush can be offered but take care that these have not come into contact with pesticides.

Supplements such can also be offered either mixed through with food or with a little added honey for an extra treat. Hopping Mice will obtain most of their water from their food, however it is advisable to always provide clean fresh water at all times. Ceramic bowls are best used for both food and water as they are both hygienic and chew-proof.

Health

Hopping Mice have few health concerns so long as their dietary needs are met and enclosures are kept free of waste. A daily spot clean of the tank and sifting through the substrate once a week will help maintain general health. Mites and fleas are not a common problem but can occur and treatments are available.

Behaviour

Hopping Mice are extremely inquisitive and will dig, chew, renovate and uproot just about anything that comes into their enclosure. It is not unusual to wake up in the morning and find your enclosure completely upside down! This is all normal behaviour, and providing ample hide caves, tunnels, fake plants or tussock, as well as burying seeds and other tasty treats in deep enough substrate will ensure your Hopping Mice get the environmental enrichment they need!

Decorations

Passion for Pets has a range of natural decorations to suit any enclosure. Red desert sand is a good choice for substrate, while more natural set ups can consist of drift wood and natural tree branches, with bunches of fake tussock grass and stones for an added naturalistic effect. There is also an array of naturalistic hide caves that will provide shelter and security for your Hopping Mouse that will blend in to the natural surroundings. Nest boxes such as those used for breeding budgies will also make adequate housing, while also helping to keep nesting material (such as Aspen bedding) in and sand out.

Contact Us

Our friendly staff is always available to answer your questions so please don't hesitate to contact us for further information.