Mice
Mus musculus

Domestic mice, also called fancy mice or house mice, are small rodents often referred to as pocket pets. Mice are popular pets because they are curious, full of personality, and require relatively easy care. They have been bred in a variety of colors and patterns.

**HOUSING REQUIREMENTS**
Mice are highly social animals and should be housed in pairs or groups whenever possible. However, unaltered males will fight to the death. House females together or with neutered males. Introduce new mice in neutral territory before housing together. They chew constantly and can escape from plastic enclosures. Use a glass aquarium with a metal screen lid with at least 5 gallons per mouse. Offer a wood or cardboard hide box. These will need to be replaced frequently as they are destroyed. Most mice will also benefit from an exercise wheel.

**DIETARY NEEDS**
Pellets: Mice should be fed a high quality rodent block in unlimited quantities, as at least 90% of their total diet.
Treats: Provide healthy table foods such as grains and fresh vegetables for enrichment and variety.
Chewing: Because their teeth never stop growing, mice should be provided with wood sticks, blocks, and other chew toys to wear down incisors and maintain dental health.

**RECOMMENDED VETERINARY CARE**
- Annual exams
- Neuter males to reduce aggression and prevent breeding
- Common illness: mites, tumors

Approximate life span: 1.5-3 years
Estimated adult size: 30-45 grams
Difficulty Level: Beginner