

# mice MATTER

ANIMAL  
AID



## Why should you care about mice?

**Even if an animal is small** or we are unfamiliar with how they live in the wild or they are not popular with the public, they should still be treated with consideration and care, just as larger, more familiar animals are. Mice are intelligent animals, who feel pain just like people do.

## How do wild mice live?

**Wild mice** may eat 200 small meals each night, visiting many feeding sites. Wild mice are eaten by other animals, so they prefer to stay close to cover and in contact with solid objects, to feel secure. Mice are nocturnal, so they see best in very low light. Smell is the mouse's most important sense, used to find and assess both their food and also predators. Mice are highly social and usually live in family units.

Male mice will 'sing' to females. A female mouse may make more than 150 trips to gather material for her nest. Mice are born blind, deaf and almost hairless, but they grow and develop fast so that by four weeks of age, they are able to make brief trips from their nest, usually with a parent.



## How mice live, and suffer, in laboratories

Mice are often kept in containers, stacked on racks, possibly with thousands of animals per room; the scope for suffering is enormous.



### The following incidents were reported in UK laboratories in 2017:

- **Blood was taken from 25 mice.** This was not only unauthorised, but was done so incompetently that it caused trauma to three of the mice, who were later killed.
- **Mice with rapidly growing tumours were not properly monitored.** This led to the tumours growing larger than allowed. The animals' distress was increased further as the tumours were removed, but painkillers were not given to the animals afterwards, as required.
- **48 mice were experimented upon.** The person in charge then went on 17 days holiday without making adequate arrangements for the animals' care – as a result 'a number' of mice died or were killed.
- **A researcher performed experiments on 16 mice** and put them in an incubator to recover. It was warmer than usual, but the researcher could not adjust it or find anyone else to do it. Three mice were found dead the next day and another was killed as they were unwell.
- **A cage of mice were being weaned** and one cage of animals was placed on top of another. This led to 26 animals in the bottom cage dying from suffocation.
- **Three mice were placed in a cage without food** - a week later they were found dead.



**Laboratory cages can never replicate the complexity of life experienced by a mouse in the wild. No matter how 'enriched' a cage is, caged animals cannot control where they go, burrow, escape unpleasant things or explore.**

**Even moving and cleaning cages causes stress in animals. Additionally, prey animals like mice tend to hide signs of pain or distress, so they can suffer terribly if not properly monitored.**



## Experiments

Clearly, **mice can suffer enormous stress, harm and even death before they are subjected to any 'research'.**

The range of conditions and diseases which are induced and inflicted upon mice could fill countless pages, but include the following:

- **Genetically modified mice** bred in an attempt to 'model' human diseases such as Alzheimer's.
- **The injection of cancer cells** into a mouse's body to try to cause cancer.
- **Mice undergoing damage** to their brains to induce strokes.
- **Mice being 'tested' in water mazes**, on spinning rods and with hot plates.

To find out more about the suffering of mice in labs, go to:

**[www.micematter.org.uk](http://www.micematter.org.uk)**



As well as being **inhumane**, research on mice is unscientific, as **animal experiments do not reliably predict what will happen in humans.** Differences between mice and humans include:

- ✗ Mice and human livers deal with cancer-causing substances differently.
- ✗ The mouse lung is considerably different in structure from the human lung.
- ✗ Some common human diseases, such as mental illness and Alzheimer's, do not occur naturally in mice.
- ✗ Mice cannot vomit.



Having a problem with unwanted mice? Please order our **humane deterrent factsheet** by contacting us - see below for details

## Yes! I want to help STOP animal cruelty

☐ Please send me a **FREE** End Animal Experiments pack

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Age (if under 18): \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick here ☐ if you would prefer Animal Aid NOT to send you postal mailings including fundraising appeals and *Outrage* magazine. You can view our privacy policy at [animalaid.org.uk/privacy](http://animalaid.org.uk/privacy) or you can ask us to send you a copy.



**Animal Aid, The Old Chapel, Bradford Street, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1AW**  
**01732 364546 | Email: [info@animalaid.org.uk](mailto:info@animalaid.org.uk) | Web: [www.animalaid.org.uk](http://www.animalaid.org.uk)**

incorporated under the name Animal Abuse Injustice and Defence Society, a company limited by guarantee. Registered in the UK no. 1787309.  
Registered office as above. VAT no. 395 2761 19.