MICE MATTER

Millions suffer unseen in UK laboratories.

ANIMAL AID

Why should you care about mice?

Every animal deserves compassion and care, not just the ones we find familiar or appealing. Even small or misunderstood animals like mice are intelligent, sensitive beings who feel pain, fear and comfort, just like us.

How do wild mice live?

- They eat up to **200 small meals a night**, visiting many feeding spots.
- Mice are **nocturnal**, so they see best in very low light.
- They prefer to **stay close to cover** to avoid being eaten by other animals.
- Their **powerful sense of smell** helps them find food and avoid danger.
- Mice are **highly social** and usually live in family units.
- Male mice sing complex ultrasonic **"love songs"** to females.
- A female mouse may make **150+** trips to gather material for her nest.
- Mice are born deaf, blind and almost hairless but **grow quickly.**

Even the smallest lives deserve compassion.

Neglect & suffering in UK labs

Mice suffer horrifically during experiments and, each year, shocking incidents of neglect are reported. In 2023, in Great Britain, these included:

One mouse had a **probe surgically attached** to their skull. This was done without authorisation.

Over 18 months, more than **900 mice** were subjected to an **unauthorised and outdated** procedure.

3 mice went "missing" – it is thought they may have **'entered the waste disposal process'.**

3 mice were left inside 'imaging equipment' **without food or water,** for three days – they were killed.

20 mice died in an **'overcrowded transport box'.**

A mouse was **'inadvertently placed in a waste bin'** and later killed.

Laboratory cages

Laboratory cages can never replicate the rich, complex lives mice experience in the wild. Mice are often kept in containers, stacked on racks, with thousands per room — conditions that cause immense suffering.

> **The scope for suffering is enormous.**

Even in 'enriched' cages, they can't choose where to go, burrow, or explore. Cage cleaning and handling cause stress, and because mice hide pain and fear, their suffering often goes unnoticed.

Mice suffer horrifically during experiments.

Before experiments even begin, mice can experience immense stress, pain, and often death. The range of conditions and diseases inflicted on mice could fill countless pages, but include the following:

- **Genetically modified** mice bred to replicate human diseases.
- **Injection of cancer cells** into a mouse's body to induce cancer.
- Mice **undergoing damage** to their brains to induce strokes.
- Being **'tested' in water mazes,** on spinning rods and with hot plates.

Why they don't work

Research on mice is unscientific, as animal experiments do not reliably predict what will happen in humans.

- Mice and human livers **deal with cancer-causing substances** differently.
- The mouse lung is considerably **different in structure** from the human lung.
- Common human diseases like mental illness and Alzheimer's don't **occur naturally** in mice.
- Mice **cannot vomit.**

Scan here to learn more

ANIMAL AID

The Old Chapel, Bradford Street, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1AW
01732 364546 • info@animalaid.org.uk • www.animalaid.org.uk
@AnimalAid /AnimalAid @animalaid_uk

Animal Aid exposes and campaigns peacefully against all animal abuse and promotes a cruelty-free lifestyle.
Registered in the UK as Animal Abuse Injustice and Defence Society. Company No. 1787309.
Image credits: © Jo-Anne McArthur / Te Protejo / We Animals and Roger Kingbird / We Animals.