

Chapter 1 : - Another mouse to feed by Robert Kraus

Another Mouse to Feed by Robert Kraus () by Robert Kraus. Paperback. \$ \$ Only 1 left in stock - order soon. More Buying Choices.

House mice are considered among the most troublesome and economically important rodents in the United States. They are generally grayish brown with a gray or buff belly. Similar mice include the white-footed mice and jumping mice which have a white belly, and harvest mice which have grooved upper incisor teeth. For more details on species identification, see a field guide such as that by Burt and Grossenheider. Native to central Asia, this species arrived in North America with settlers from Europe and from other points of origin. House mice are much more common in residences and commercial structures than are rats. Brooks regards them to be the most common mammal in cities, next to humans. Habitat House mice live in and around homes, farms, commercial establishments, and in open fields and agricultural lands. At times they may be found living far from human settlements, particularly where climates are moderate. The onset of cold weather each fall in temperate regions may cause mice to move into structures in search of shelter and food. Food Habits House mice eat many types of food but prefer seeds and grain. Foods high in fat, protein, or sugar may be preferred even when grain and seed are present. Such items include bacon, chocolate candies, butter, and nutmeats. Unlike Norway and roof rats, house mice can survive with little or no free water, although they readily drink water when it is available. They obtain their water from the food they eat. An absence of liquid water or food of adequate moisture content in their environment may reduce their breeding potential. General Biology, Reproduction, and Behavior House mice are mainly nocturnal, although at some locations considerable daytime activity may be seen. Seeing mice during daylight hours does not necessarily mean that a high population is present, although this is usually true for rats. Mice have poor eyesight, relying on their hearing and their excellent senses of smell, taste, and touch. They are considered color-blind; therefore, for safety reasons, baits can be dyed distinctive colors without causing avoidance by mice, as long as the dye does not have an objectionable taste or odor. House mice may burrow into the ground in fields or around structures when other shelter is not readily available. Nesting may occur in the ground or in any sheltered location. They are usually 4 to 6 inches. Litters of 5 or 6 young are born 19 to 21 days after mating, although females that conceive while still nursing may have a slightly longer gestation period. Mice are born hairless and with their eyes closed. They grow rapidly, and after 2 weeks they are covered with hair and their eyes and ears are open. They begin to make short excursions from the nest and eat solid food at 3 weeks. Weaning soon follows, and mice are sexually mature at 6 to 10 weeks of age. Mice may breed year-round, but when living outdoors, they breed mostly in spring and fall. A female may have 5 to 10 litters per year. Mouse populations can therefore grow rapidly under good conditions, although breeding and survival of young decline markedly when population densities become high. House mice have physical capabilities that enable them to gain entry to structures by gnawing, climbing, jumping, and swimming. For more detailed information on their physical abilities and the resulting need to design rodent-proof structures, see the chapter Rodent-Proof Construction and Exclusion Methods. Studies indicate that during its daily activities, a mouse normally travels an area averaging 10 to 30 feet 3 m to 9 m in diameter. Mice seldom travel farther than this to obtain food or water. Because of their limited movement and feeding behavior, both of which differ from those of commensal rats, they are much more difficult to control in some situations. Mice constantly explore and learn about their environment, memorizing the locations of pathways, obstacles, food and water, shelter, and other elements in their domain. They quickly detect new objects in their environment but, unlike rats, do not fear them. Thus, they will almost immediately enter bait stations and sample new foods baits. The degree to which mice consume a particular food depends on the flavor of the food in addition to its physiological effect. Mice may reject baits simply because they do not taste as good as other available foods. If the bait contains poison or some other substance that produces an ill effect but not death within a few hours, the bait will often become associated with the illness. Bait shyness can persist for weeks or months and may be transferred to nontoxic foods of similar types. Prebaiting, that is, training mice to feed repeatedly on nontoxic bait for a period of days

prior to applying the toxicant in the bait, will largely prevent sublethal doses and thus bait shyness. It will also reduce the number of mice left to be bait shy. Prebaiting is especially recommended with zinc phosphide baits. All of the other toxic baits currently registered for house mice are chronic or slow-acting. These baits, in effect, serve as their own prebait.

Damage and Damage Identification When house mice live in or around structures, they almost always cause some degree of economic damage. In homes and commercial buildings, they may feed on various stored food items or pet foods. In addition, they usually contaminate foodstuffs with their urine, droppings, and hair. On farms, they may cause damage to feed storage structures and feed transporting equipment. A single mouse eats only about 3 grams of food per day 8 pounds [3. House mice living in fields may dig up and feed on newly planted grain, or may cause some damage to crops before harvest. But losses in stored foods are considerably greater. Mice commonly damage containers and packaging materials in warehouses where food and feeds are stored. Much of this loss is due to contamination with droppings and urine, making food unfit for human consumption. House mice cause structural damage to buildings by their gnawing and nest-building activities. In livestock confinement facilities and similar structures, they may quickly cause extensive damage to insulation inside walls and attics. Such damage also occurs in homes, apartments, offices, and commercial buildings but usually at a slower rate because mouse populations in such structures are smaller. House mice often make homes in large electrical appliances, and here they may chew up wiring as well as insulation, resulting in short circuits which create fire hazards or other malfunctions that are expensive to repair. Mice may also damage stored items in attics, basements, garages, or museums. Damaged family heirlooms, paintings, books, documents, and other such items may be impossible to replace. Among the diseases mice or their parasites may transmit to humans are salmonellosis food poisoning, rickettsialpox, and lymphocytic choriomeningitis. Mice may also carry leptospirosis, ratbite fever, tapeworms, and organisms that can cause ringworm a ungal skin disease in humans. Droppings may be found along runways, in feeding areas, and near shelter. Differentiating between mouse droppings and those of certain insects may be difficult. In comparison, droppings of bats contain insect fragments and are more easily crushed between the fingers. Tracks, including footprints or tail marks, may be seen on dusty surfaces or in mud Fig. A tracking patch made of flour, rolled smooth with a cylindrical object, can be placed in pathways overnight to determine if rodents are present. Urine, both wet and dry, will fluoresce under ultraviolet light, although so will some other materials. Urine stains may occur along travelways or in feeding areas. Smudge marks rub marks may occur on beams, rafters, pipes, walls, and other parts of structures. They may be less apparent than rub marks left by rats. Gnawing may be visible on doors, ledges, in corners, in wall material, on stored materials, or on other surfaces wherever mice are present. Fresh accumulations of wood shavings, insulation, and other gnawed material indicate active infestations. Mice keep their paired incisor teeth, which grow continuously, worn down by gnawing on hard surfaces and by working them against each other Sounds such as gnawing, climbing in walls, running across the upper surface of ceilings, and squeaks are common where mice are present. Visual sightings of mice may be possible during daylight hours, and mice also can be seen after dark with the aid of a flashlight or spotlight. Nests frequently are found when cleaning garages, closets, attics, basements, and outbuildings where mice are present. They consist of fine, shredded fibrous materials Odors may indicate the presence of house mice. A characteristic musky odor is a positive indication that house mice are present, and this odor can be used to differentiate their presence from that of rats. Mouse sign and visual sightings are of limited value in accurately estimating mouse numbers, but they are the simplest and often the only practical method available. Search premises thoroughly when looking for mice. In structures, searches should include attics, basements, around foundations, crawl spaces, and behind and under stored materials. One method to detect the presence of mice is to make nontoxic tracking-dust patches of flour or talc at to foot 6- to 9-m intervals throughout a structure. The number of patches showing tracks after 24 hours, and the abundance of tracks in each patch, indicate the size of the population. Because house mice, unlike rats, do not travel far from their nests or shelter, the percentage of patches showing tracks is a good indicator of the relative size and distribution of the mouse population. Snap trapping is also an excellent way to determine the presence of mice. A relative index of mouse abundance can be calculated from the number of mice trapped for a certain number of traps set during 1 or more nights for example, 35 mice caught per trap

nights. Legal Status House mice are not protected by law. They may be controlled using any pesticide registered by federal or state authorities for this purpose, or they may be controlled by use of mechanical methods such as traps. Damage Prevention and Control Methods Effective prevention and control of house mouse damage involves three aspects: The first two are useful as preventive measures, but when a house mouse infestation already exists, some form of population reduction is almost always necessary. A flow chart outlining steps in controlling house mice is found in figure 4. Control of house mice differs in important ways from the control of Norway or roof rats. Mice are smaller and therefore can enter narrower openings, making rodent-proofing more difficult. They have limited areas of movement home range and require little or no free water. While having a reproductive capability that is higher than that of rats, house mice are usually less sensitive often far less sensitive to many rodenticides. Persons who do not take these differences into account when attempting house mouse control may expect poor results.

Chapter 2 : 4 Ways to Care for a Baby Wild Mouse - wikiHow

*Another Mouse to Feed [Robert Kraus, Jose Aruego, Ariane Dewey] on www.nxgvision.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. When the poor, harassed father rabbit decorates some eggs for his thirty-one children, he becomes known as the Easter Rabbit.*

After ingesting such a mammoth meal, snakes need time to rest peacefully and begin digesting their prey. If jostled or frightened, a snake may vomit up a meal. While you can certainly move a recently fed pet snake in the event of an emergency, you should avoid handling your snake under normal circumstances for at least one day after feeding him. Reasons Snakes Vomit In addition to variety of illnesses, recently fed snakes may vomit for several other reasons: When snakes eat, they become much less agile and considerably slower; this can put them at risk of predation. Accordingly, when a snake who has just eaten observes a predator, he may vomit so he can move more quickly and escape. Further, sometimes the movement and jostling associated with captive handling cause enough stress to make a snake vomit after a meal. Give Them a Long Weekend Many things can affect the rate at which your snake digests prey. In the best of circumstances, a snake with access to suitably warm temperatures may digest a small mouse in two or three days. Conversely, a large python who consumes a deer may spend weeks digesting. As a rule of thumb, wait 24 to 72 hours after your snake has fed before holding him. However, if your snake still exhibits a large food bulge after three days -- or if it has gotten bigger since the initial ingestion -- refrain from handling him. Give him 48 more hours and re-evaluate his status. In the Event of Vomit If you mistakenly handle your snake too soon after he has eaten, he may vomit while in your hands or shortly after returning him to his cage. Ensure that he has access to clean water -- vomiting usually causes dehydration. It may be beneficial to soak your pet for about an hour the next day to ensure that he rehydrates completely. Use a clean, secure plastic container to soak your snake, and provide only about 1 inch of water so he can rest comfortably with his head above water. Do not make your snake swim continuously. Give your snake seven to 10 days before offering food again, and use a smaller food item than the previous meal. Unavoidable Interactions If unforeseeable circumstances necessitate moving your snake immediately after a meal, do so with great care. Realize that some snakes are aggressive immediately following a meal, likely to strike just about anything that enters their cage. After letting your snake calm down for several hours, slowly move him as necessary. Support his head and body as you normally would, but try not to touch his stomach bulge if you can help it.

Chapter 3 : What Would Eat A Mouse In A Moustrap? - Pest Control - DIY Chatroom Home Improvement P

Another Mouse To Feed has 16 ratings and 3 reviews. Rachel said: Overall, I thought this was a very cute book about a mouse family and talks about the me.

KMR has less than half the fat content of rat milk which is the major energy source. Newborn rats do not have much energy stored, so need the higher fat content in the milk. Nursing A baby bird feeding syringe with a fine curved tip or a very small doll nursing bottle will work as a nurser. You can also use a piece of absorbent string, acting like a wick from bottle to baby, for the very small ones until they are big enough to grasp the bottle tip itself. You can then insert this tubing into your syringe or nipple of a nurser bottle. The tapered tip syringe has an opening equivalent to a size 12-14 gauge wire tubing. The baby bird feeding syringe has a tip equivalent to a 22 gauge wire tubing. Heat up the tip and slip it on the syringe. Always feed warm not hot or cold formula to your babies. You can tell when their tummies are full by the white patch in the left middle of their bellies do not over feed. It will take about five minutes to feed each one. This is common with hand-raised babies. Sometimes they will even lose their hair for a short time, but it will eventually grow back. Care After you feed each baby, they will need you to massage their abdomen and rectal area with a warm, damp cloth to stimulate them to urinate and pass solid wastes. You will need to do this until they are eliminating on their own. Remember to always handle these guys carefully as they are very small. It is very important to keep these little guys warm at all times. Many people use the plastic critter carriers lined with a towel and either a hot water bottle under the towel or an electric heating pad set on the lowest setting with the carrier placed on it. This makes it easy to take them with you to work or school to feed them on their schedule. Diarrhea Diarrhea is one problem you may encounter when feeding these small rodents. The main cause is over feeding. Another cause can be coccidiosis—a one-celled internal parasite that can be diagnosed by your veterinarian. Dehydration occurs with diarrhea no matter what the cause and can kill the babies if not treated promptly. You will need to stop giving all milk to your orphans and replace it with the same amount of electrolyte solution for human infants. Milk will irritate the digestive tract and prolong the diarrhea. Your babies will need, not only the fluids from the electrolyte solution, but also the salts and chemicals it contains. It will often be necessary to also give a few drops of kaolin-pectin every 2 hours to help halt the diarrhea. Weaning Once the babies open their eyes, you can start adding dry baby cereal to their formula make sure it will pass through the tip of the nurser as well as cutting down on the nightly feedings. You can start to wean them off the bottle and onto a dish when they are about 3 weeks old. Dip your finger in the gruel mixture and let them lick it off your fingers. Decrease the amount of bottle feedings and give their meal in a small dish three to four times a day. You can start to add different things like oatmeal, bread, lab block powder, and baby food to their mixture. Also by this time, they will start to nibble on bits of apple, carrot, fruits, seeds, etc. Make sure fresh water is also available at all times as they will start to drink from a bottle. Give fresh meals each time, taking out any uneaten foods. You will also need to clean them up after they eat as they are very messy eaters. They can lose their coats and go bald temporarily if they are left dirty. With lots of love and a proper diet, your babies will grow up to match their relatives in size they will outmatch them in temperament though! If your babies made it this far, you will have some exceptionally wonderful pets as they see you as mom and have strongly bonded with you. You should feel very proud in raising these very difficult babies! Some additional information on raising orphans: Evaporated milk has been used successfully to raise mice. A fine tipped paint brush is another option to use to feed baby mice. Other articles to check out:

Chapter 4 : Another Mouse To Feed by Robert Kraus

Another Mouse to Feed by Kraus, October 15, , Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing edition, Hardcover in English.

This is very important: If your cat has caught a mouse, you are usually better off letting nature take its course. Cats, even house cats, are carnivorous creatures, something we tend to forget as we pile up the dry kitty kibble. Animals eat other animals. Timely treatment is vital. If you have just stumbled upon a nest of baby mice, generally found after the mother has been killed by a trap or pet, there are some things you can do before your wildlife rehabilitator arrives. Obtain a small box and line it with loose rags. A heating pad or warm bottle of rice should be placed in contact with the abandoned rodent. Something tolerable to the touch of your hand may be too hot for a newborn mouse. Eighty to a hundred degrees is the ideal temperature for a mouse nest. To find a rodent rehabber in your area, click on my nationwide directory of wildlife rehabbers or do an online search for one in your area. In the meantime, you can still care for the rodent as advised below. If the mice are under two weeks of age, their eyes will not yet be open. At this stage, mice and rats need to be fed every two hours even through the night. If your baby mice have just recently lost their mother within a few hours, you can forgo the need to rehydrate them prior to formula feeding; however, it is always advisable to assume there is some degree of dehydration. Baby mice are insanely small, so you will need a very small syringe to administer Pedialyte or any other non-flavored electrolyte supplement. Pet stores often carry special feeding syringes with a fine, curved tip. You cannot feed mice less than two weeks of age with an eye dropper. Their mouths are so small, the liquid must be slowly given directly into the mouth. While doing this, you must be very careful not to push too much electrolyte fluid in too quickly or the baby will aspirate and drown or develop pneumonia. How can I tell if aspiration has occurred? You can tell when a baby rodent has aspirated if a fluid bubble appears out of the nose while feeding. If this happens, immediately turn the baby upside down to prevent any more fluid from draining into the lungs. If such a young mouse has aspirated, it will be unlikely to survive. You can prevent most cases of aspiration by holding the baby mouse vertical while feeding. Wild animals should never be held on their backs like human infants. Ideally, a wildlife rehabilitator will take over the feeding of the baby mouse before you have to get involved with mixing actual formula or burning the midnight oil feeding the little guys. Unlike with opossums, baby rats and mice are often too small to initiate urination and defecation with a damp towel. A warm, wet Q-tip is very handy in this situation. Using the Q-tip, gently rub the genital area of the baby mouse after every feeding. This stimulus will cause waste excretion and will eventually teach a recognizable sensation of having to go to the bathroom. Thoroughly dry the infant to prevent urine scald and bacterial infection. A general rule of thumb is that an infant mouse will need to be fed in hourly intervals equal to the number of weeks it is in age. For example, a four-week old mouse will need to be given formula every four hours. After four weeks, a mouse should be able to eat regular mouse food and drink from a water bottle. The rehabilitator will place a small, sturdy box inside the cage, open end down, with an entrance hole in the side. This cave will become the nest den for the mouse, and will be a safe haven when the rodent is stressed. When it is time to release the rat or mouse back into the wild, the animal can be scooped up, box and all, and taken to the relocation spot. A wildlife rehabilitator will be certain to place the box in a covered area, perhaps an area of thick brush or woodland debris. This will prevent immediate capture of the newly freed rodent by any overhead predators. Food and water should be left out to help the mouse establish itself in the new environment, but should not be placed directly next to the nesting den. In time, the mouse will find a better, safer home and others of its kind. If you have turned over a mouse to a wildlife rehabilitator, consider what you have just read. A lot of time and dedication goes into the care of wild animals, and it is a nice courtesy to offer some form of support to the rehabilitation cause. Here are some other advice articles for wildlife rehabilitation:

Chapter 5 : The Best Way to Care for Baby Mice - wikiHow

Get this from a library! Another mouse to feed. [Robert Kraus; Jose Aruego; Ariane Dewey] -- When Mr. and Mrs. Mouse become exhausted from overwork, caring for their many children, the little mice decide to take over.

Article views , There are many myths and untruths about feeding captive ball pythons. Much advice that is offered is simply not helpful. Hopefully this guide will help you understand the what, how and when of feeding your ball python and improve your snake keeping experience. Firstly, you need to understand that most snakes will eat when they are happy and hungry. This is natural and needs to be expected. Ball pythons in particular can often be described as binge feeders. That is they will eat well for weeks or several months, then they will stop feeding. If you have not experienced this before, it can cause a lot of concern. Another very important point in feeding ball pythons is there is not a one size fits all approach. Snakes, like people are individuals and have slightly particular feeding habits. Force or assist feeding should always be a last resort. As has been mentioned, ball pythons can go without food for weeks or months at a time. This has given them a reputation as picky eaters. In some cases this can be true. If however, all the environmental factors are correct, they are then mostly doing what many ball python do, binge feeding and fasting. As already pointed out, ball pythons can and will stop feeding at some point during the year. Missing several meals is not a problem. Ball pythons stop feeding for a variety of reasons. In general the main reasons are due to: Ball pythons occur naturally in West and Central Africa. Their average day time temperature across their natural habit averages around 86 degrees F 30 degrees C. Nighttime will see a drop of several degrees. In captivity is important to replicate these temperatures. Ball pythons do very well with an ambient temperature of 82 °F 27 °C and with a hot spot of 86 F C. A common problem with captive ball pythons is that they are kept too cold. Likewise a cage can be too hot. Ball pythons are not a desert species. In the wild ball pythons spend most of the daylight hours either in an underground rodent or similar burrow or even tucked inside a termite hill. Try moving them to a quieter spot so they are less disturbed. Be aware though, moving a ball python from one area to another or to a new cage can also put them off food for a while. Many ball pythons have a food preference. Some will be fixed on mice while other only eat rats. If you are lucky your ball python will eat both as they would in the wild. If you have to switch from one type of food to another, try scenting to fool your snake. If you want to switch say from mice to rats and your ball python is fixed on mice, try rubbing a dead mouse or mouse bedding on the rat before offering it. This often does the trick, in time the snake should switch without scenting. Scenting with multimammate mice is often good to get reluctant feeders going. Many keepers often make the mistake of keeping their young ball python in a cage that is way too large for them. I know keepers who believe a large cage stresses out a baby ball python. We keep all our baby ball pythons in Vision hatchling racks, moving up to medium sized racks and then onto V70 adult racks as they grow. Likewise, you need to start off with a smaller tub for babies, moving them to larger cages when they are ready. Most reptile pet stores should offer a full range of specialist snake cages. Note, fish tanks are designed for fish and not snakes and are too exposed for most ball pythons. Reptile vivariums on the other hand with only glass at the front with the top, back and side solid. This makes a much better choice and ensure you snake feels more secure. Most, but not all ball pythons will go off their food while they are getting ready to shed. Some ball pythons however can be so accustomed to feeding that they will still take food if offered to them while in shed. This is not a good practice. If their dry shed skin rolls down their bodies and gets caught up on the food item in their belly you can have a problem. If this were to go unnoticed the dry tight skin roll around them could damage your snake. Wait until they have shed and then feed them. Another reason for snakes not feeding could be that they are sick. Ball pythons if kept at the incorrect temperature or in a too dry environment can develop a respiratory infection. Most snakes will stop feeding if they are unwell. If you notice any symptoms of sickness in your ball python, take it to an exotic pet or herp vet to get checked out. Both male and female ball pythons will often go off their food during part of the breeding season every year. Breeding males stop feeding for anything from two to five months while breeding or simply if they can smell breed able females. Females likewise will go off food at the start of the breeding season. Like most things to

do with snakes, there are exceptions and some may continue to eat when they are gravid. Ball pythons eat mostly rodents. In the wild they will feed on any small rodent they can catch and overpower. They will probably also eat small nesting birds if they come across them. In captivity ball pythons can spend their entire lives feeding on either mice or rats. They will however also eat gerbils, multimammate mice, hamsters, and other small exotic breeds of mice. The vast majority however are happy to munch down domestic bred rodents. You will find ball pythons that will only eat mice while others will prefer rats. Some however will eat both. We have adult ball pythons that eat both. If you are buying a snake from a breeder or herp pet store, find out what and how they were being fed. In the United States many larger breeders feed exclusively on live food. That can be a problem if you live in a country where it is illegal to feed live food, or if you only have access to frozen rodents. How to feed a ball python: Most ball pythons are very timid animals. There are however some tips of the trade to get them feeding more consistently. In the wild, ball pythons are nocturnal creatures resting up in the heat of the day and only venturing out after dark. Be sure to use feeding forceps or hemostats and not your hands to feed your snakes! Forget about the idiots you see on YouTube feeding by hand! After a very short time you should start to understand the different ways in which most of your snakes like to get fed. Some will come straight out when you open their cage looking for food; others will wait in the hide boxes for you to dangle their food in the opening before striking. Still for others, you might need to simply lay their food in front of their hide and leave it there. I have many adult ball pythons who will feed if their food is left overnight. Again remember feeding is not a one size fits all approach. Patience is a prerequisite. How to get hatchling ball pythons feeding: Many breeders start their hatchlings feeding on either live rat pups or mouse hoppers. They simply put the young rodent in the cage and leave the snake to feed. I use a heat box heat mat in an insulated box as that works well. Be careful if you use a microwave as you can easily get rodent guts exploded all over the place from overheating! Small food items get warm very quickly in a microwave. Once the food rodent is warm, move it slowly in front of your baby ball python. Your objective is to get a feeding response or strike. Be careful not to tap the snake on the nose as most ball pythons are head shy although some breeders do this and it works for them. This works for some hatchlings. Once left alone undisturbed many baby ball pythons will often eat in the dark. Here is a bunch of feeding tricks. They all work some of the time: Likewise, if the cage is too hot, try dropping the temps. Adult rats can easily kill a timid ball python. Only feed live rodents where it is legal to do so.

Chapter 6 : Feeding Ball Pythons - Articles - World of Ball Pythons

Get this from a library! Another mouse to feed. [Robert Kraus] -- When Mr. and Mrs. Mouse become exhausted from overwork, caring for their many children, the little mice decide to take over.

Tumblr Mice are inquisitive and friendly pocket sized pets. With proper care, they will keep your family entertained for hours on end. Mice have been bred as pets for more than fifteen hundred years. There are mouse shows and pet mouse societies, just as there are shows and societies for dog, horse, and cat breeds. These friendly and delicate little animals are great companions. Generally speaking, you should start with two or three female mice. The females like the companionship of their own kind, as well as their human keeper. Males should be kept by themselves or they will probably fight often to the death, and they are often a poor choice as a first mouse. Buying your mice directly from a pet-mouse breeder is your best bet. Many pet stores buy their pet mice from rodent mills, and some of these mice have hereditary health problems. Also, pet-store living may result in its own health problems, not to mention a timid, stressed-out mouse. Pet mice should not be timid, unlike wild mice. Also, their eyes should be bright and their fur should look clean. Bald patches on the coat are a warning sign, unless the critter belongs to a hairless breed, of course. If you live in a warm area, and most of Australia counts as warm, the enclosure needs to be well-ventilated. A mouse-cage with a strong plastic base and wire walls is ideal. The plastic base should come up the sides for at least four or five centimetres, to keep the bedding inside, and the wires should be no further apart than one centimetre, to keep the mice inside. Buy as large a mouse cage as you can, making sure it is at least 30cm tall, 30 cm wide, and 45cm long. In cooler climates, some people prefer to use a fish tank with a mesh cover. There are several problems with this, especially here in New South Wales: The lack of ventilation can make the mouse sick, because ammonia builds up. The lack of ventilation also makes the enclosure warmer. It is more difficult to keep the bottom of the tank clean. The only approach for removing the mouse is from above, which is scary for the rodent. Predators come from above. For the hidey-hole, you can buy attractive little dome houses or wooden huts for your mice, or you can give the little mice a small corrugated-cardboard box without ink on it. They need a dark, dry place to hide and sleep. Shredded paper without inks is ideal bedding for a mouse cage. Fill the bottom of the cage with shredded paper a few centimetres thick. Provide a few pieces of paper towel or facial tissue, for the mice to make their little nests with, and they will be happy. The animal needs to be able to run without bending her back. Choose a solid plastic wheel. They are much safer than the wire ones. Mice should never be given a wire exercise wheel, because they catch their feet and tails between the wires. Your mice would also enjoy some toys in their home. The cardboard rolls from paper towels and bathroom tissue will keep mice amused for hours. A piece of fruit wood from the parrot section of the pet store is good for chewing, as are plain craft sticks from a craft store. The mice will enjoy a length of hemp rope strung across the cage, or hanging from the top of the cage, because they love to climb. Mice are tiny, and they dehydrate quickly. A drip-bottle or two on the side of the cage will work well. Ceramic bowls such as the ones sold for lizards are also good, although they can be harder to keep clean. It is easier and safer to buy good quality hamster food for a mouse than it is to figure out which of the commercial mouse foods have the appropriate nutrition. A piece of dog biscuit is a nice treat a couple times a week, and it doubles as a chew toy to wear down their teeth. Tiny pieces of apple or carrot, a few pieces of unsweetened breakfast cereal, and some pieces of dry catfood are all tasty and nutritious items to round out the diet. If you discover that yours have a taste for cheddar or brie, a tiny piece once or twice a week is okay for a treat. The enclosure, on the other hand, needs frequent cleaning. The bedding should be replaced and the cage cleaned with diluted vinegar every week. Make sure to rinse the vinegar off completely. Some spot-cleaning will probably be needed every three or four days. The mice can be removed to their carrier, during cleaning. There are small plastic fish-tank-like carriers that are useful as temporary holding and carrying devices. Keep the mice out of direct sunlight and drafts, too. In the summer, you may need to put an ice-pack in one side of the cage, to let the mice cool themselves. Mice love to chew! Give your new mice several days or a week to settle in to their new home before starting to try to touch them. If you need to pick them up before that, use a paper cup. Let them sniff and investigate. Repeat

this several times. Eventually, one will probably climb onto your hand. Let her sit there and wander off on her own time. If she panics, put it down again. Once she is comfortable walking on your hand, you can let her climb your arms, shoulders, and so on. Remember that she can crawl through any hole she can get her head through, so be careful about gaps under doorways and bookcases. Mice are wonderful little pocket-sized pets, but some people are frightened of them. Is anyone in your family afraid of mice? If you live in an apartment flat, are mice permitted? Set up their cage, read some mouse-fancier forums online, and find a veterinarian who treats small exotic pets near you. Consider adopting your mice from a shelter if your local shelter handles mice.

Chapter 7 : Rodent Rehabilitator - What to do with a baby mouse I found?

Editions for Another Mouse To Feed: (Hardcover published in), (Audiobook published in), (Paperback),

Chapter 8 : Editions of Another Mouse To Feed by Robert Kraus

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Chapter 9 : Another Mouse to Feed (October 15, edition) | Open Library

"Bloat" can be caused from over feeding, gas in the belly, the formula being too concentrated, or feeding too quickly. Creek Valley Critters has a video on dehydration and bloat in a baby domestic mouse.