



DEER MOUSE INFO SHEET

FAST FACTS

- Female mice can give birth when they are two months old and are able to have babies 6 to 10 times per year.
- Mice have to build their homes near sources of food because they like to eat 15 to 20 times per day.
- Mice are good jumpers, climbers and swimmers.
- House mice, like other rodents, do not vomit.

General Information

Deer mice get their name because their fur looks a lot like deer fur. They are most commonly found in open grasslands, brushy country, cliffs, forests, pasturelands, and croplands.

Size	5"-8" long	Common Name	Deer Mouse
Shape	Round	Kingdom	Animalia
Color	Brown with white feet and underbelly	Phylum	Chordata
Legs	4	Class	Mammalia
Wings	No	Order	Rodentia
Antenna	No	Family	Cricetidae
		Genus Species	Peromyscus maniculatus

Diet

Deer mice eat seeds, small fruits and berries, beetles, caterpillars, grasshoppers, leafhoppers, and an underground fungus. They prefer to eat insects when they can find them.

Habitat

The deer mouse makes its home outdoors in hollow tree logs or piles of garbage. They are **nocturnal**, so they sleep in their nests during the day. They also use their nests to raise their young and to protect them against harsh weather. When a deer mouse does come indoors, it prefers quiet places, such as attics.

Impact

Deer mice can spread the potentially fatal **Hantavirus**. The virus can be spread by touching infected mice or by breathing in the fumes released in their urine.

Prevention

- * Mice eat 15-20 times a day, so keep your homes clean and don't leave food out.
- * Be sure to empty kitchen and household garbage cans frequently.
- * Make sure that your home and storage areas are clean and dry.
- * Make sure that you clean your sheds, crawlspaces, and garbage cans often.
- * Close up any small holes and cracks they can come in through.

To learn more about this and other mice, visit <http://www.pestworldforkids.org/mice.html>