

Rodents



From their origins in southwest Asia, zooarchaeological surveys have identified *M. m. domesticus* in the Near East and Eastern Mediterranean approximately 10,000 years ago and within the Western Mediterranean and Western Europe around 3,000 years ago.

– (Cucchi et al. 2005, 2020)



Stone Age! (Mesolithic)

- Mammoths and mastodons
- Cave bears
- Dire wolves
- Saber toothed tigers

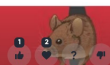
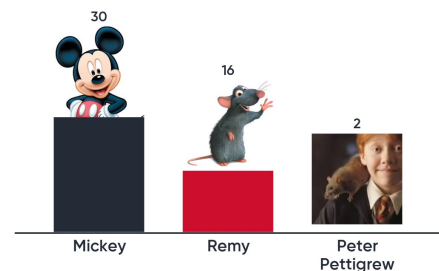
Why does this matter?



ID Matters

- Where are they coming from?
- What are they eating or collecting?
- How they are getting in?
- What traps to use?
- Where to target?
- So much more!

Which one is the house mouse?





House Mouse Biology

- Small
- Sneaky
- Destructive
- Reproduce
- Repeat

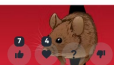
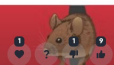
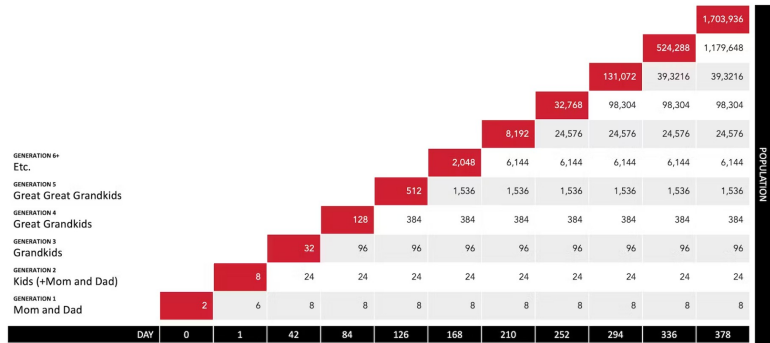


More on that

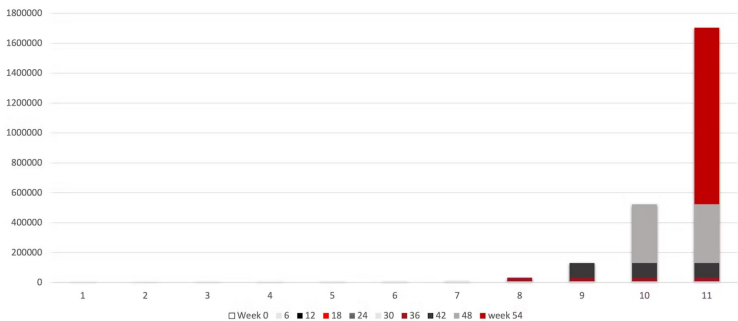
- o All rolls up into the above points
 - o Thigmotaxis
 - o Curiosity
 - o Ground cover
 - o Range
 - o Food preferences
 - o Male/female
 - o Time of year
- o Other animals in area (target and non-target)
 - o Ground level vs elevated



Left unchecked, what will a house mouse population be in a year?

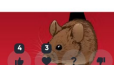


HOUSE MOUSE NUMBERS



What limits a house mouse's breeding potential

- 1st food
- 2nd type of habitat
- 3rd water
- 4th availability of males
- 5th size of habitat



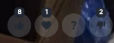
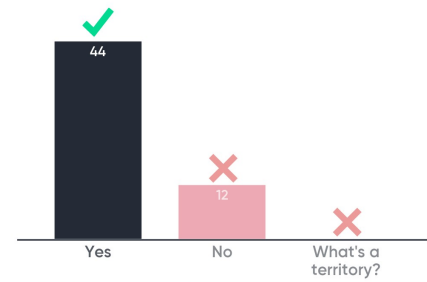
Just clean up ALL the food and you won't have this problem!

- Other presenters





House mice are territorial



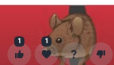
Leaderboard

973 p		Gio
970 p		Steve Piersa
970 p		Anthony vasi
969 p		Kay
968 p		William
968 p		Robert
967 p		Agent X9
962 p		Tom O
961 p		Donovan
961 p		FD1

What does that mean?

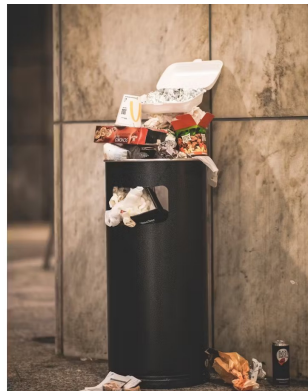
When they have all the resources they need, they don't need to be territorial.

Limiting food means they have to fight more, stress them more, increases mortality.

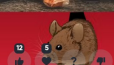


There's more

- Motivation for food decreases with age
- Smell is really important
- Less food = less mating
- Territories based on resources, not space



Sanitation includes habitat





Where is the habitat?

- Less active in light
- Higher populations in heavy vegetation
- Preference for dark boxes
- Stick to the ground

Key Take-Aways

- Mice are OLD (and smart)
- All about the food
- Sanitation is hard
- Sanitation really makes a difference

