

ANIMAL BITES

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Find out your animal rights name
 - All about mice
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THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF MICE

Facts that you can
really gnaw on

Animal
Squad

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safeanimalsquad.org.nz

ALL ABOUT MICE

TEETH

Mice have teeth that grow at a rate of 0.3mm per day. To grind their teeth down, mice are constantly nibbling on all sorts of things.

FEET

The shape of a mouse's feet and claws makes them excellent at running, climbing, jumping and swimming. They can even climb vertical surfaces.

EYES

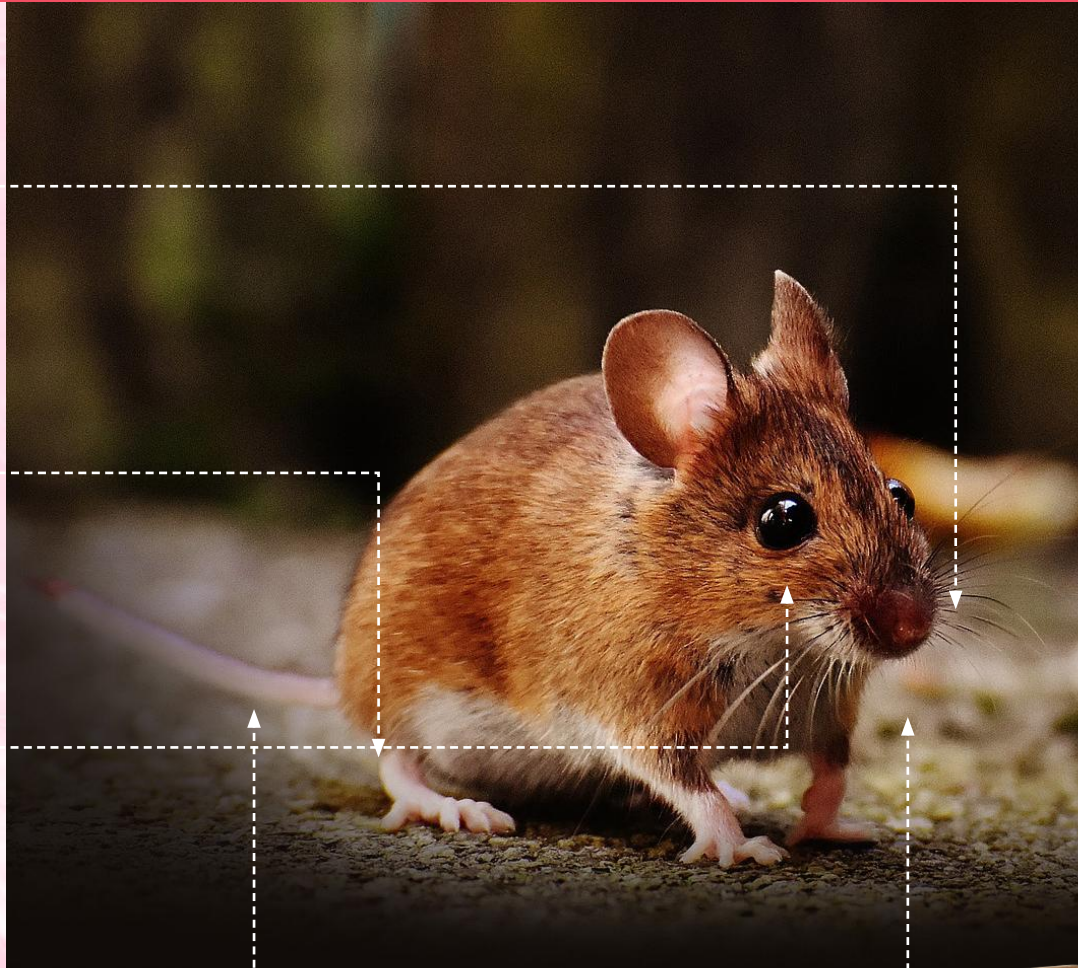
Mice have very poor eyesight. Their outstanding sense of hearing and smell makes up for this.

WHISKERS

A mouse will use their long whiskers to help feel the surfaces and spaces around them.

TAIL

Did you know that a mouse's tail can grow as long as their bodies?



Mice are like us in many ways. They are very social. They love to wrestle and play together. They form strong bonds with one another and have been known to help their friends who are in trouble.

When mice are born, they have no fur and are blind. It takes them around six weeks to reach adulthood and they can live for up to three years.

Mice can be found in all sorts of places. They live in forests, meadows and sometimes in your house!

Did you know mice don't actually like cheese? Mice will eat most things if they are hungry. However, they can become really unwell if they eat dairy. It is unclear why this has become a popular belief but if you have a companion mouse, please do not feed them cheese. Mice prefer natural foods such as grains and fruit.

Mouse Names:

- A pup is the name for a baby mouse.
- A male mouse is called a buck.
- A doe is a female mouse.

A HISTORY OF MICE

Mice have been both loved and feared throughout history.

Mice introduced themselves to New Zealand by hitching a ride on the boats of Polynesian and European explorers. Mice are considered lucky in countries such as China and are usually connected with good things like success and fortune.

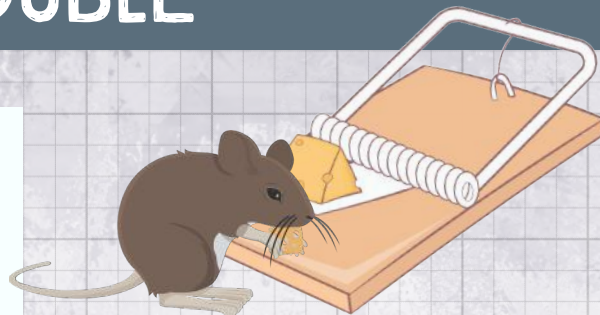
Although it was not known at the time, mice and other rodents carried fleas that spread the plague throughout Europe and Asia. This plague, commonly referred to as the Black Death, caused the deaths of hundreds of millions of people in the 14th century.



MICE IN TROUBLE

ANIMAL TESTING

Approximately 300,000 animals are used for animal testing, teaching and research in New Zealand every year. That number of people would fill a city around the size of Christchurch. Around 15% of these animals are mice. Mice are chosen because they are small, cheap to keep and have a short lifespan compared to other animals.



TRAPS AND POISONS

Sometimes we find these fuzzy critters entering our home in search of dry housing and tasty food. Traps are used to kill these unwanted guests. A spring trap is designed to kill a rodent instantly but this is not always the case. Survivors often have horrific injuries and are stuck until they pass away.

Poison baits are also used to remove unwanted guests from a house. Rodents will eat this bait and they usually take many days to die. Different poisons will work in different ways – they can cause brain swelling, kidney failure or internal bleeding. All of these are extremely painful ways to die. Many poisons are also very dangerous for your companion animals.



Our laws do not protect animals from suffering in painful experiments that, if performed on your cat or dog, would be considered cruel and illegal.

Mice are very different to humans. This means that a medicine that works on a mouse may not work on a human and vice versa. An example is the Aspirin you use to cure a headache: it actually causes birth defects in mice and rats. Tobacco smoke does not cause cancer in mice and rats (NZAVS).

	Spring trap	Poison bait	Tip trap	Clean kitchen
LONG TERM SOLUTION	NO	NO	NO	YES
SAFE FOR COMPANION ANIMALS AND SMALL CHILDREN	NO	NO	YES	YES
KIND TO MICE	NO	NO	YES	YES

HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are plenty of kinder ways to address unwanted mice in your house that do not hurt them:

Tip traps are humane tunnel-like traps you can use to capture a mouse so you can release them outside. Make sure the trap is checked regularly and you release them at least 500m from home so they don't return.

Keep mice away in the first place by making sure your house is clean. Have food in sealed containers. Keep your kitchen clean of crumbs and food. Put any fallen fruit from your garden in the compost or green waste bin.



Purchase products with the bunny of approval

You can make a huge difference to the lives of countless mice and other animals by purchasing products from companies that don't test on animals. Check the products that you use every day such as sunscreen, shampoo, soap and toothpaste.

How do I know if a product is cruelty free?

Easy! Just take a look on the packet. If you see one of these logos, you know it's a good choice.



If your current products don't have a bunny logo, don't worry. You are already working to make the change. Finish using the product (or give it away) and keep a look out for cruelty-free options to replace it.

KIND FOOD VEGAN MAC AND 'CHEESE'

Ingredients

- 1 packet dried macaroni
- 1 cup peeled and diced potatoes
- 1/4 cup peeled and diced carrots
- 1/3 cup chopped onion
- 3/4 cup water
- 1/2 cup raw cashews (soaked overnight)
- 1/4 cup plant milk
- 2 tablespoons nutritional yeast
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon salt (or more to taste)
- 1 pinch paprika

Instructions

1. Cook the macaroni – see instructions on the packet and drain.
2. In another pot, bring several cups of water to boil. Add potatoes, carrots, and onion and cook for about 10 minutes until vegetables are soft enough to blend.
3. Drain the veggies and place them in your blender. Add the rest of the ingredients and blend until smooth.
4. Pour sauce over your cooked macaroni and stir.
5. Optional: sprinkle with vegan parmesan or extra nutritional yeast.



ANIMAL SQUAD PROFILE

Favourite animal:

Every single one! If I had to choose though, probably pigs.

What got you interested in wanting to help animals?

At school we were doing a unit on the farming industry. I did some research and discovered how unfairly animals can be treated.

I love animals, and this was quite upsetting so I wanted to change something.

What is your favourite veg food?

My mum makes a pretty good vegetarian lasagne!

Anything you want to share about animals?

I absolutely love them and really enjoy reading *Animal Bites* because it's such a great chance for kids to step up and make a difference for what they believe in.



Name: **Jasmine**
Age: **12**

PUZZLE PAGE

WHAT'S YOUR
ANIMAL RIGHTS
NAME?



WHAT MONTH WERE YOU BORN IN?

JANUARY - THE MIGHTY
FEBRUARY - THE DARING
MARCH - THE GREAT
APRIL - THE WONDERFUL
MAY - THE EXTRAORDINARY
JUNE - THE SUPER
JULY - CAPTAIN
AUGUST - THE MOST AMAZING
SEPTEMBER - THE LOVING
OCTOBER - THE INVINCIBLE
NOVEMBER - THE POWERFUL
DECEMBER - THE INCREDIBLE

WHICH OF THESE IS YOUR FAVOURITE ANIMAL?

COW
MOUSE
PIG
RABBIT
CHICKEN
FISH
DOG
CAT
SEAL
HORSE
SHEEP
BEE

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE COLOUR?

PURPLE - GUARDIAN
RED - RESCUER
BLUE - AVENGER
GREEN - LIBERATOR
YELLOW - DEFENDER
PINK - PROTECTOR
ORGANGE - SUPPORTER
BLACK - FRIEND
WHITE - ALLY

MY ANIMAL RIGHTS NAME IS...

Math Mastermind

$$\text{mouse} + \text{mouse} + \text{mouse} = 60$$

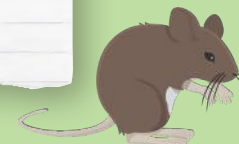
$$\text{mouse} + \text{mouse} + \text{mouse} = 30$$

$$\text{mouse} + \text{mouse} = 7$$

$$\text{mouse} + \text{mouse} + \text{mouse} = ?$$

"Hide and
squeak!"

"What is a
mouse's favourite
game?"



ANIMAL SQUAD MEMBERS



Fundraising by Ani (11) and Mylo (9)

Ani and Mylo raised and donated over \$250 by selling soap at their school market day. What a fantastic effort. Awesome job, Mylo and Ani!

Slam Poetry by Laney (11)

I get the blues, when I watch the news
The whales are dying and the world
Stands by. I cry. I sigh.
As the waste goes by, grows high
And the animals die.

We are litter critters and it needs to stop...

They think it's food, the bottles, the bags, the cans and straws...
They see it floating in the ocean
The motion, isn't food, its pollution, it's not a food solution,
We need to stop this destruction.

We are litter critters and it needs to stop...

The mountains of rubbish polluting our ocean
Like a wizard's crazy, wicked potion
Killing animals, sea creatures and us
We need to make a big, huge fuss.

Be part of the solution, not the pollution...
Now we are not litter critters



JOIN SAFE ANIMAL SQUAD

If you are 8-14 you can **join for free.**

Sign up online at **SafeAnimalSquad.org.nz**

Or email **animalsquad@safe.org.nz**



For Animals
Ngā Kararehe Haumaru



Why did the bees go on strike?
Because they wanted more honey and shorter
working hours!

$$27 = \text{bee} + \text{mouse} + \text{mouse}$$

$$7 = \text{mouse} + \text{mouse}$$

$$30 = \text{bee} + \text{bee} + \text{mouse}$$

$$60 = \text{bee} + \text{bee} + \text{mouse}$$

ANSWERS
PUZZLE PAGE