



## College House Presentation

### Mouse Management 101

#### **Mus musculus (house mouse)**

Excerpts from <http://www.the-piedpiper.co.uk/th1c.htm>

The house mouse came originally from southwestern Asia from whence it has spread all over the earth, mainly with the help of man. It has the amazing ability to adapt and it now occurs more or less where man has settled. In most cases the mouse is associated with buildings, often moving outside in the summer, but always retreating indoors come the autumn. In buildings, mice will live anywhere and they are very difficult to keep out. If you can push a [broom] under a door, then a mouse can get in...!! Mice are also totally omnivorous, in other words they will eat anything, even down to the soap in the bathroom or even candles . . . but their favourite foods are cereals and cereal products. For their size, they don't eat much but the damage that they can do, both with gnawing and soiling products with their urine and droppings, is tremendous.

#### **Interesting facts about mice:**

They eat about 3 grams a day.

They don't need to drink much.

They produce about 80 droppings per day.

Female mice are pregnant for 3 weeks (gestation period).

A litter can produce between 4 to 16 individuals.

A mouse can have 7 to 8 litters per year — even more.

Sexual maturity of the young is about 8 to 12 weeks.

#### **Contributing factors of infestation:**

Extremes in weather conditions; ongoing and active construction sites; holes and cracks in building exteriors and around pipes; inconsistent trash removal; in-room food storage; build-up of miscellaneous belongings such as old clothing, shoes, bulk packs, etc., and densely populated areas with exposed trash.

The information for this presentation was provided by Marty Overline, President of Aardvark Pest Management, Inc., the Office of College Houses and Academic Services, and the Department of Housing and Conference Services.

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## Helpful Tips from Marty

### Mouse Management 101

To report a problem, log onto the PennPortal and click on *FacilityFocus Maintenance Request*. In the "Extra description" field of your request, please indicate *what you saw and where you saw it*.

- Dispose of *all* garbage and trash properly, especially soiled paper goods, food wrappers, take-out containers.
- Avoid leaving unwashed dishes and silverware sitting out for extended periods of time.
- Clear crumbs, however small, off of all countertops, shelves, and other surfaces whenever possible.
- Store food in sealed containers (glass and tin are good) —even sugar, salt, pepper and spices should be kept in the refrigerator for extra caution.
- Vacuum or sweep with a broom often. You can borrow a vacuum cleaner from your Information Center.
- Clear out all undisturbed clutter. Mice like to thrive in these areas. Nag your roommates to clean up as well!
- Indications of a mouse problem include droppings in your cupboards, etc.; foul smell; chewed or damaged wrappers, articles; a hole in a wall or closet with a build up of grease around it; sighting of a live mouse.
- You can also go to your Information Center to report a pest sighting. Do this every time you see evidence of mice or other pests. Encourage your roommates to do so as well.
- Pick up laundry, books, clothing, bedding, trash, and all other items off of the floor when you are expecting exterminators to come to your room.
- Don't *ever* try to remove or *even touch* a mouse from a snap trap or glue trap.
- Please remember that a mouse infestation is a problem for the whole community. Prevention, reporting problems, extermination, and building/room maintenance are shared responsibilities. We're in this together! Your vigilance is greatly appreciated.