



## Mice and Pets



Any one that lives in the country knows about mice in the house. Once the fields are down, they come inside to look for food. Our houses are also a nice warm haven from the impending cold. However, we don't want to share our homes with these pesky rodents. They can spread diseases and fleas as well as cause damage to food and belongings.

You need to eradicate the mice without harming your pets. The number one rule is **DO NOT USE POISON!** Even if the poison is out of your pet's reach, the mouse may not be once it dies. If your cat or dog eats the mouse, then they can be poisoned as well. All it takes is one mouse! If you or your neighbors have used poison and your pet starts to have seizures, has spontaneous bleeding (bloody vomit, nosebleeds, severe bruising), or vomits a bright green substance then take them to the ER immediately! U of I has a 24/7 ER and their number is 217-333-5300.



We also don't advise using glue traps as it's inhumane for the mice. They get stuck but don't die and slowly starve to death. Other animals, including your pets, can get stuck as well. Other live traps are available that don't harm the mice and allow you to relocate them. This may work but it's likely that they will just come back.



The best way to eradicate a mouse problem when you have pets is to use an old-fashioned snap mousetrap. Place the traps where your pets cannot get them. Peanut butter is common bait.

While you are ridding your home and garage of mice, secure your pet's food and medicine in a mouse proof container. Any plastic containers are not tough enough and a mouse will chew through this. Instead, use a metal garbage container with a lid for the best security.



If your pet is a good mouser, he may eat some mice. If this happens and for all outdoor cats, we advise deworming against intestinal parasites (roundworms and tapeworms) once or twice a year as well as checking a stool sample every 6 months since mice carry these worms.

Also, make sure your pet is on year round flea medicine as mice can bring fleas into your home. Did you know that the Plague (aka Black Death) of the Middle Ages was due to fleas on rats transmitting the disease, not the rats themselves!

