

The Mouse World

"For More Publicity To Fancy Mice And Rats"

OUR AIM—To make known to the fancier, who desires a most interesting and instructive pet, the good qualities of fancy Mice and Rats.

Regular Contributor, S. Chichester Lloyd.

Rats - Mice - Dollars - Cents

(Continued from last issue).

By S. Chichester Lloyd, Regular Contributor

Rats will give from four to twenty young at a time—sometimes more, and if fed, nourishing, sensible food will raise every one. Mice are more prone to devour their young on slight provocation—unless given abundant supplies of condensed milk to eat at all times. Rats must have this, too, but mixed with emulsion of codliver oil and hypophosphites of lime and soda as they are bigger animals and need more bone producer.

The male mouse has a musky odor to the urine. The answer is to keep down the supply of males. Result: less smell where many are kept.

Cages must be thoroughly disinfected every few months. I disinfect mine weekly. Quick cleaning cages should be provided and an extra set secured so a quick transfer may be made and the dirty cages cleaned and dipped in a bath of bichloride of mercury and then allowed to dry. They should be re-enameled every little while—about twice a year will do, and all cracks and crevices filled with the enamel.

The sawdust and waste seeds may be fed to rabbit or cavy hutch and after a day's picking by these animals swept out into the garden or field for fertilizer.

Rats have no odor but must not be allowed to remain in unclean cages any more than four days at a time as the excrement will ferment and give off ammonia. Large enough cages should be provided to allow the use of

a cigar box of sawdust to be placed in the darkest corner of the cage. This the rats will use and also newspapers should be spread on the rest of the floor space. The cigar boxes can be emptied daily or at longer intervals if necessary. A neat nest box can be placed in the other corner and a rack made for a water dish so it cannot be upset by the rats as they use it to bathe in daily. A rat will wash its paws after and before eating and also run its head way up to the shoulders into the water cup and then wash itself immaculately clean. They hate dirt on their fur or tail.

The surest way to tell a sick rat is to look for dirt on tail or hind feet. When a rat loses interest in its personal appearance it is sick. The stage of the disease can be determined by the amount of dirt on the rat.

Rats do best on a restricted diet in captivity—when wild they are omnivorous. They must be kept dry and provided with dry nest boxes. If they have warm sleeping quarters freezing weather in the room where they run about will not hurt them. This is true of mice also.

Owing to lack of space this month we will conclude this article next month. Now that we have a new Mouse and Rat Club that seems to have "steam" behind it, we hope to increase the size of this department. Watch next month's number for drawing of Scheidt's sectional Mousery.

White Mice

By Edward A. Fritz, Jr.

In any line of business a foundation must first be laid if that business would be a success. Take for instance, a beginner in pets, who has a commercial viewpoint, it would be an entire waste of time for him to attempt to buy cheap stock, for where would he be in the end? I am speaking from my own personal experience in the raising of white mice.

About one year ago, there came in my possession a pair of full grown white mice, and from these, with the exception of two more males, which I purchased to prevent inbreeding, I have raised over thirty-five mice. I consider this a fair start for one who has had no experience, remembering the fact that ten died or were eaten by the mothers, through my own ignorance to supply salt or failure to remove the male on time. (This system of removing the male seems not to be practiced by some breeders, but I find that the male always devours the young or at least kills them.)

I make it a practice to feed them every night as the mice will eat more readily. A dish of water or milk, warmed, is given them each evening, and in another receptacle, oats or bran, mixed with a little hen feed (cracked corn, kaffir corn, and wheat), and a slight sprinkle of hemp or bird seed. In each grain pan I also place a piece of dog biscuit, about one-half inch square to every pair of mice, which they eat completely by the next night.

Needless to say, this method of feeding is very inexpensive and allows you to sell your stock at a greatly reduced price to meet the demand of the buyer and to "beat" the prices of your competitors.

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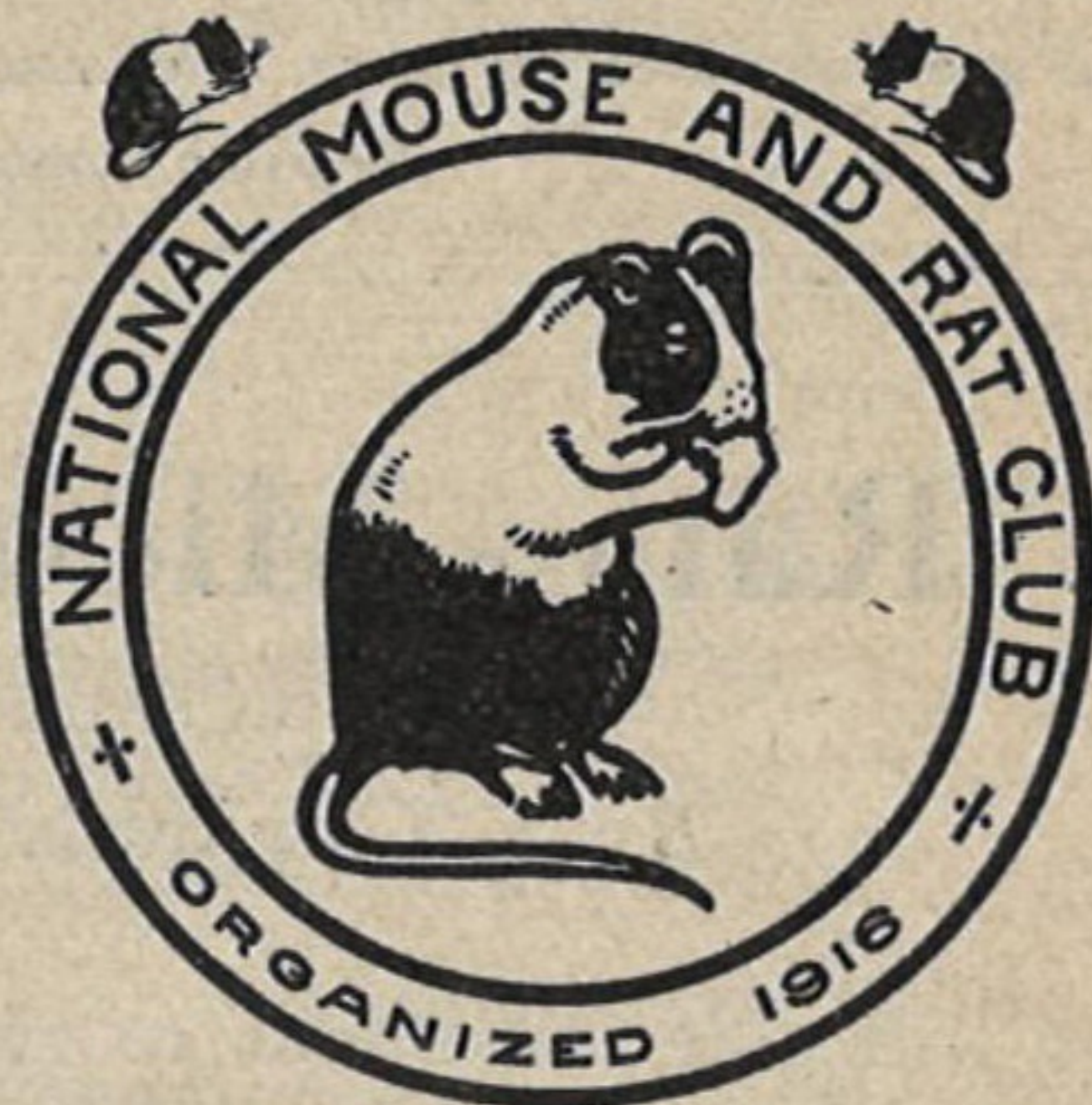
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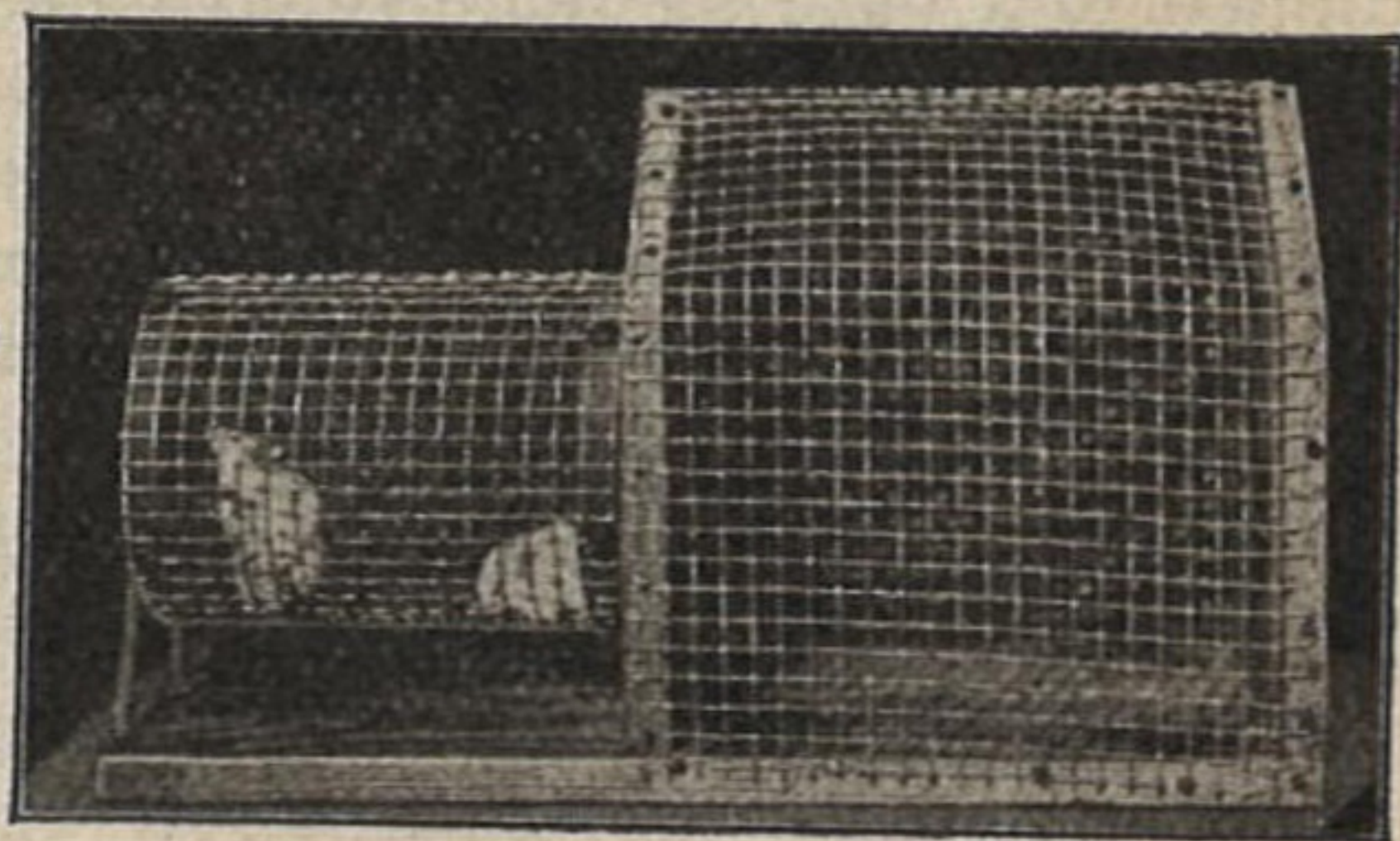
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