

Mouse Crafting & Handling

We invite you to craft your own personalized mouse, plan for its care, and practice refined handling. While you work, please ask us questions, exchange perspectives, and flex your empathy.

1. Grab a balloon and blow it up so it is partially full and oblong shaped. This is your mouse's body.
2. Use sharpees to create your mouse. Be sure to add eyes, ears, whiskers, and a mouth. You can add colors, research features such as ID tags, headcaps, or other equipment, or even something imaginary and plain fun.
3. Fill out a passport/cage card for your mouse. Give it a name, purpose, and describe its care. Think about where it is going to live and how you might want people to handle it.
4. Practice refined handling (tunnel handling or cupping) with your mouse. You can ask someone at the table to play the part of mouse and you be the handler.
5. If you're willing, ask our staff to take a picture of your mouse with its cage card so it can be cataloged in an online digital colony

Activity created by  The 3Rs Collaborative

Adapted from

Animal Research Nexus's Mouse Exchange Activity & Dr. WOW's (Wendy O. Williams) Balloon Mouse Training Aid

