



# DEER MOUSE *Mus musculus Peromyscus* & WHITE FOOTED MOUSE

*P. leucopus*

## INTRODUCTION:

A problem caused by deer and white-footed mice is their tendency to enter human living quarters and/or work environments. They will store food, build nest, and can cause substantial damage to peoples' belongings (ie: clothing, mattresses, and any other objects suitable for nesting). White-footed and Deer mice are unusual to suburban or urban living unless there is a significant amount of open space nearby. Droppings and nesting evidence by both deer & white-footed mice are similar to

what's left behind by the house mice. Unlike the house mouse, deer and White-footed mice tend to hoard their food supply.

## CHARACTERISTICS:

Both species are similar in appearance. They have lower white extremities with scantily furred prominent thin ears, bulging black eyes, and course whiskers. The average size deer mouse is 184 mm (7.2 in) in length and weighs 21 g (0.7 oz). Deer mice are proficient runners and jumpers compared to the house mouse



<http://www.cdc.gov/rodents/cleaning/index.html>

["Facts About Hantavirus" Brochure \[PDF - 182 KB\]](#)

<http://www.cdc.gov/hantavirus/hps/index.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/hantavirus/index.html>



## **VECTOR of HUMAN DISEASE:**

In biology a vector is commonly known as an organism that transmits a pathogen from a reservoir to host. Deer mice are considered a vector because of the ability to transmit disease most commonly known as the primary carrier of Hantavirus and bubonic plague.

## **RISK:**

The Deer mouse (*P. maniculatus*) was first associated as a reservoir for a type of hantavirus accountable for adult respiratory distress syndrome that lead to multiple deaths in the four-corners area of the United

States in mid-1993. The source of human disease is through inhalation with contaminated mice feces, urine, &/ saliva from infected rodents. To safe guard against Hantavirus is to assume that all rodent bedding and droppings are infected.

Complete clean-up by the following protocol is necessary:

- DO NOT stir up dust by sweeping or vacuuming up nesting materials, droppings, or urine.
- Wear rubber, vinyl, or latex gloves
- Spray area in question with either a disinfectant or mixture of 1 part bleach to 10 parts water and let contaminated area

soak for 5 minutes. If using disinfectant, follow the manufactures instructions on the label for disinfectant time and dilution.

- Use a paper towel to pick up disinfected droppings, urine, &/ nesting and immediately dispose of in the garbage
- When all rodent droppings and urine have been removed, disinfect all possible contaminated items. (Center for Disease Control and Prevention)