Common breeds and strains of rats and mice

Some strains of rats and mice are very aggressive while others have been produced to have a high incidence of tumours. These animals are used for many studies into human conditions, such as cancers, diabetes etc. These animals have over a 90% DNA match with humans. Perhaps this is where the saying, 'Are you a man or a mouse?' came from.

The following list shows some common breeds of strains of rats and mice:

- **Albinos**: These are the most commonly kept rats in research laboratories in Australia. There are two strains: the Wistar (WIS) and Sprague-Dawley (SD).

- **Hooded (Hooded Manchester)**: They are smaller than the albino strains and are white with a black hood covering the shoulders and often have similar coloured blotches along the back.
- Dark Agouti (DA): Agouti is the wild colouration. They are preferred by raptor and reptile keepers who use them as food because of this feature.

- August (AUG): This is sometimes known as RCS. It has a dilute colour ranging from champagne to red and hooded with pink eyes.

- Curly coated mouse: The curly coated mouse is a genetic mutation that has been developed.

- Black mouse: Black is a colour variation of rats and mice.

- Manx: Manx rats and mice are born with no tail. They are available in a range of colours, such as this ginger and white specimen.
• Brown and white mouse: Brown and white is another variation on the bicolour mice.

• Tortoiseshell and white mouse: The tortoiseshell and white is a very attractive variation of the bicolour mouse.