

Ages and sexing of dormice

Dormice – litter of inactive young

- Record young age (Pink or GEC)
- Count all young if possible or at least give minimum number present
- If confident and can work quickly:
 - Weigh and confirm sex of mother
 - Weigh one or two youngsters and give average weight
- **Important to record young age and minimum number**



© David Lee

Age Class: Pink
Approx. 0 – 6 days old, 1-2.5g
DO NOT ATTEMPT TO SEX



© Ann Weddle

Age Class: Grey eyes closed
Approx. 6 – 16 days old, 2.5 - 6g



© Nora Wuttke

Age Class: Eyes open
Approx. 16 – 28 days old, 6 - 10g



© Clare Pengelly

Age Class: Juvenile (pre hibernation)
Approx. 28+ days old, 10g +



© Ian White

Age Class: Adult (post hibernation)
Approx. 8-12mths +, 12g +

Dormice – Sexing(1)



Female: small gap



Male: larger gap

- Catch dormice in 'loose fist'
- Allow them to run between your hands to get them on their back and nose under thumb
- Roll tail down to sex
- Look at the distance between the anus and the urinary opening

Dormice – Sexing(2)



Note from Simone Bullion (Suffolk)

'In addition to the size of the gap between the anus and the urinary opening, the female genitals can be described as a *flat ended emulsion brush often with a split up the middle*, whereas male genitals are a *pointy ended artist brush*'

Sexing dormice – Male & Female



© Sarah Bird

These dormice have been anaesthetised by a qualified vet for the NW Dormouse partnership

Sexing dormice – Male



Sexing dormice – Female



Dormice – Sexing(4)

Note from The Dormouse Conservation Handbook

Sexing dormice can be more difficult than for other small rodents, particularly with young dormice. The difference to look for is the distance between the anus and genital papilla (penis/vagina) which is longer in males than females. In males, the testes may be apparent in the breeding season, but they are not very prominent.



The dormouse conservation handbook

second edition



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