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**

Age Class: Pink
Approx. 0 – 6 days old, 1-2.5g
DO NOT ATTEMPT TO SEX
Age Class: Grey eyes closed
Approx. 6 – 16 days old, 2.5 - 6g

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

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

Age Class: Adult (post hibernation)
Approx. 8-12mths +, 12g +
Dormice – Sexing(1)

• 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

Female: small gap
Male: larger gap
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

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

© Sarah Bird
Sexing dormice – Male
Sexing dormice – Female
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.
Bringing the wild back to life