Male vs Female: Distance of Genitals & Anus

Testes are not always visible on males, and nipples are most prominent on females when they are lactating. The urethra is long for males and short for females.

Juvenile vs. Adult

Juveniles tend to be grayer and much smaller than adults. Due to their quick maturation, the mice we catch are primarily adults.

Hantavirus

Avoid direct contact with feces, urine, and saliva of *P. maniculatus*. This species is known to transmit this rare but serious respiratory disease that can cause failure of the heart and lungs. For more, go to: [https://www.cdc.gov/hantavirus/hps/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/hantavirus/hps/index.html)

Photos By: Gabriella Reynosa
Reithrodontomys megalotis
Western Harvest Mouse

Measurements

- **Ear Length**: 10-16 mm
- **Tail Length**: 60-80 mm
- **Hind Foot Length**: 12-19 mm
- **Body**: 47-73 mm

Distinct Characteristics

- **Pelage**: brown, reddish-brown buff on back, gray/white belly
- **Ears**: large, round, naked
- **Tail**: no tuft, no bicoloration, sparsely haired

Reserve(s): FONR

Photos By: Alan Harper (copyright 2017) (cropped) & J.N. Stuart (copyright 2011) (cropped)
Western harvest mouse

Reithrodontomys megalotis

Naked ears

Longitudinal groove on each incisor

Sparsely haired tail
Sorex trowbridgii
Trowbridge’s Shrew

Measurements
- **Ear Length**: 5-7 mm
- **Tail Length**: 47.5-60.5 mm
- **Hind Foot Length**: 10-15 mm
- **Body**: 60.5-73 mm

Distinct Characteristics
- **Pelage**: all dark brown, gray/buff brown
- **Ears**: small, hidden well in hair
- **Tail**: no tuft, visible brown and white bicoloration
- **Misc**: pointed nose

Reserve(s): FERP

Photos By: Gabriella Reynosa
Little to no bicoloration

Very small eyes

Distinct pointed nose
**Peromyscus maniculatus**  
**Deer Mouse**

### Measurements
- **Ear Length**: 12-20 mm
- **Tail Length**: 54-124 mm
- **Hind Foot Length**: ~22 mm
- **Body**: 60-101 mm

### Distinct Characteristics
- **Pelage**: golden, tawny, or dark brown  
  white belly  
  strong color distinction between upper part and underside
- **Ears**: large, round
- **Tail**: tuft, strong brown and white  
  bicoloration, same length or longer than body

### Reserve(s): FONR

*Photos By: Gabriella Reynosa*
Protruding black eyes

Upper parts and underside have distinct contrast in color

Large round ears

Peromyscus maniculatus

deer mouse
Chaetodipus californicus
California Pocket Mouse

Measurements
Ear Length: 9-14 mm
Tail Length: 101-143 mm
Hind Foot Length: 24-29 mm
Body: 89-92 mm

Distinct Characteristics
Pelage: dark brown/gray
    spiky/bristly fur on back
    gray/white belly
Ears: small, round
Tail: prominent tuft, visible brown and
    white bicoloration

Reserve(s): FONR

Distict white spine-like bristles on rump

Prominent tuft on tail

Long hairs directly in front of ears

Pocket mouse

Californian

C. californicus
Peromyscus truei
Pinyon Mouse

Measurements
- Ear Length: ~22.2 mm
- Tail Length: 76-123 mm
- Hind Foot Length: ~22 mm
- Body: 95-108 mm

Distinct Characteristics
- Pelage: brown, cinnamon, or tawny; distinctive golden stripe on sides; gray/white belly
- Ears: large, pointed, longer than hind foot
- Tail: tuft, visible brown and white bicoloration
- Misc: large eyes

Reserve(s): FERP, FONR

Photos By: Gabriella Reynosa
Distinct pointed nose
Large eyes
Ears pointed and larger than hind foot

Pinyon mouse
Peromyscus truei
Peromyscus californicus
California Deer Mouse

**Measurements**

- **Ear Length**: 20-27 mm
- **Tail Length**: 117-156 mm
- **Hind Foot Length**: 24-31 mm
- **Body**: 101-127 mm

**Distinct Characteristics**

- **Pelage**: gray/golden brown
- golden stripe along sides
- dark back
- pale gray/white belly
- **Ears**: medium, round
- **Tail**: tuft, strong brown and white bicoloration, same length or longer than body

**Reserve(s)**: FERP, FONR

*Photos By: Gabriella Reynosa*
Orange coloration on the sides

Largest of *Peromyscus*

Tail same length or longer than body

*Peromyscus californicus*
Dipodomys heermanni
Heermann’s Kangaroo Rat

Measurements

- **Ear Length**: 10-17mm
- **Tail Length**: 160-200 mm
- **Hind Foot Length**: 38-46 mm
- **Body**: 90-113 mm

Distinct Characteristics

- **Pelage**: dark brown on back
  - brown/golden brown
  - white belly
  - white markings around eye
- **Ears**: small, round, dark
- **Tail**: tuft, strong brown and white
  - bicoloration
- **Misc**: large eyes

Reserve(s): FONR

Photos By: Gabriella Reynosa
White markings around eyes

Very long tail

Five toes on hind feet

Heermann's kangaroo rat

Dipodomys heermanni
**Microtus californicus**  
**California Vole**

**Measurements**
- **Ear Length**: ~17 mm
- **Tail Length**: 38-67 mm
- **Hind Foot Length**: ~18 mm
- **Body**: 120.5-146 mm

**Distinct Characteristics**
- **Pelage**: grizzled brown on back, flecks of black and lighter gray
- **Ears**: large, round, lighter than body
- **Tail**: no tuft, visible brown and white bicoloration

**Reserve(s)**: FERP, FONR

*Photos By: Jerry Kirkhart (copyright 2010) (cropped) & Ron Wolf (copyright 2009) (cropped)*
Inconspicuous furred ears

Tail half of body length or shorter

Pelage is grizzled brown with black and gray flecks

California vole

Microtus californicus
Neotoma fuscipes
Dusky-footed Woodrat

Measurements
- Ear Length: 31-34 mm
- Tail Length: 260-439 mm
- Hind Foot Length: 27-44 mm
- Body: 158-257 mm

Distinct Characteristics
- Pelage: gray/buff brown on back, pale gray/white belly, head usually grayer than body
- Ears: large, round, lighter than body
- Tail: no tuft, not bicolored, thick

Reserve(s): FERP, FONR

Photos By: Gabriella Reynosa
Sparsely furred tail, not bicolored

Fur extends over ankles

Pale gray or white underside

Much larger and heavier than other species in this guide

Sparingly furred tail, not bicolored

Neotoma fuscipes
Sources
EOL (https://www.eol.org)
IUCN Red List (https://www.iucnredlist.org)

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