

## **Sexing**

African Pygmy Dormice reach sexual maturity around 4-5 months and are one of the hardest rodents to sex. The best method to sexing your Dormice is to place pups in a see-through jar or container that they cannot escape from. The best age for identifying sex is 15 weeks.

The space between the genital and anal openings is greater in the male than the female.

In the center of the genital vents the female has a dot and the male has a more button-shape - similar to Guinea Pigs.

At 10-12 weeks males will have a notable skin patch and protrusion at the base of their tails, where their testicles are.

At 10-12 weeks a female will not have a skin patch or will have a very small one, however will not have a bulge at the tail base.

Once they are sexually mature 15/18 weeks; the Males have large testicular bulges under their tails making this much easier to identify.

Female dormice have prominent nipples if pregnant or lactating, blowing on belly fur may help reveal this for young dormice.

Due to the difficulty in sexing, and the long time to mature you may find a lot of breeders sell their young as unsexed. Avoid buying Dormice under 10 weeks from inexperienced breeders to avoid a misidentification. Buy from reputable experienced breeders; which can sex their young as early as 8 weeks of age.

Please see Photos below for reference of mature adults,

### **Female Dormouse Example (Photo Cred Jenna)**



### **Male Dormouse Example (Photo Cred Jenna)**

