

29th. April, 1930.

F.A. McDougall, Esq.,  
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Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter. I have for some time been considering the possibility that small marsupials such as pouched mice might be of great value for genetical investigations, since nearly all genetical work with mammals has hitherto been confined to a somewhat closely similar group of rodents.

The main points which would make them suitable for genetical purposes would be:-

- (a) Tolerance of close captivity
- (b) Capacity to become tame enough for the free handling of litters
- (c) Suitable diet easily obtainable
- (d) Fecundity
- (e) Short generations.

If I can satisfy myself that on these points the pouched mice, or related marsupials, would be good material I should much like to try their experimental breeding. To this end perhaps you could inform me what official permits would be required for their importation, and what facilities the Steamship Companies would offer for transit. I should be willing to meet reasonable expenses in the matter, but not excessive ones, since the mice are unlikely to have any economic value as pets or ornaments.

Yours sincerely,