**Vocabulary: Mouse Genetics (Two Traits)**



**Vocabulary**

* Allele – one of two or more forms that a gene could take.
	+ *Dominant alleles* are always expressed in the organism when they are present.
	+ *Recessive alleles* are only expressed when the dominant allele is not present.
	+ Usually dominant alleles are represented by capital letters. Recessive alleles are represented by lowercase letters.
* Genotype – the genetic makeup of an organism.
	+ The alleles possessed by an organism are represented by symbols. For example, a mouse with white fur might have the genotype *ff*.
* Phenotype – the physical appearance of an organism.
	+ Organisms with different genotypes can have the same phenotype. For example, an *FF* mouse and an *Ff* mouse both have black fur.
* Probability – the likelihood of an event.
	+ Probability can be expressed as a fraction, decimal, or percentage. If the odds of an event are one in four, the probability is 1/4, 0.25, or 25%.
* Punnett square – a diagram that shows the possible offspring of two parents.
	+ Punnett squares allow for the determination of the probability of each offspring’s genotype.