

Sugar Glider



Petaurus breviceps

Native to Australia and the surrounding islands, the sugar glider gets its name from its affinity for sweet foods and its ability to glide using a membrane extending from its forelegs to its hindlegs. This interesting marsupial does best in pairs and will bond with its owner. Sugar gliders can potentially live up to 15 years in captivity.

Socialization

Before your glider has gotten to know you and bond to you it may be a little standoffish. It will take time for your glider to bond and this may take several days or several months. You should carry your glider with you frequently, making sure it has access to fresh food and water ever 45-60 minutes. Gliders bond by scent so placing a recently worn article of clothing can help it become accustomed to your scent. Spending time regularly with your glider is especially important if you only have one because they need to social interaction, and before you know it, you won't be able to get your glider to leave your side.

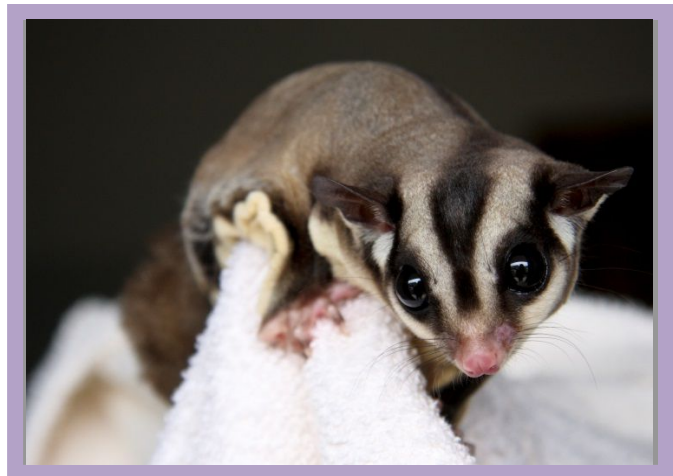
Housing

Size

Sugar gliders need a lot of space for exercise and gliding. For this reason, we recommend cage sizes no smaller than 20in x 20in x 30in, but the largest cage you can accommodate is best. Tall and narrow is better than short and wide. Your glider's cage should be constructed of wire mesh or metal bars; bird cages make an excellent housing option. Sugar gliders are nocturnal, so the location of the cage should be an area that is low-traffic during the day and avoids direct sunlight.

Bedding

The main purpose of bedding in a sugar glider cage is the absorption and collection of waste. Your glider should spend little time on the bottom of the cage. Some recommended bedding options are recycled paper and wood shavings. Cedar should be avoided as it has oils that can cause respiratory problems. Bedding should be changed frequently to prevent accumulation of feces and high levels of ammonia from urine.



Some products to look for

- A & E Cotton Cable Perch
- Sunseed Vita Prima Sugar Glider Food
- Critter Ware Flying Saucer Wheel
- Kaytee Soft Granule Litter
- Marshall Banana Hammock
- A & E Chop Chew Bird Toy
- Exo Terra Multi Vitamin
- Zilla Reptile Munchies Mealworms
- JW Quad Pod Bird Toy



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Decor

Sugar gliders like to climb and explore so perches, ladders, and climbing ropes are a must. Gliders also enjoy playing with a variety of toys and many bird toys are suitable. Wooden bird chew toys, toys with bells, and tunnels are all excellent choices. Sugar gliders will often utilize exercise wheels, but they must be solid and not have any gaps where a wayward glider toe or foot can get stuck. Your glider will also prefer somewhere dark and cozy to hide out and sleep during the day. Bird nesting boxes lined with fabric or pouches designed specifically for gliders are great, but make sure there are no loose strings.

Water

While sugar gliders do not drink much, and get most of their moisture from fresh food items, a water bottle is still recommended. Water bottle types typically designed for hamsters work perfectly and should be placed in an elevated position in the cage. The water bottle should be emptied and refilled with fresh water regularly, even if it has not all been consumed.

Diet

Pellets

Pellets are an excellent supplemental food item for you glider. Fresh pellets should be offered every 24 hours. While your glider will eat more pellets some days than others, they should be readily available for it to snack on as needed at all times. All food items should be placed in elevated dishes.

Fresh Food

Fresh fruits and vegetables should make up the bulk of your glider's diet. Sugar gliders prefer sweet foods, but they should not be the only option offered. Some good choices include apples, bananas, carrots, grapes and sweet potatoes. This is not a comprehensive list of all that you can offer and you should vary your glider's diet frequently. A sugar glider's diet should consist of between 25% and 50% protein. As with the fruits and vegetables, variety is best. Some options include cooked and unseasoned lean cuts of meat, hard boiled eggs, nuts, and even insects. Food items should be offered in the evening and all uneaten portions should be removed daily.

Supplements

Supplementing your glider's diet with vitamins and minerals is recommended and several supplements designed for reptiles work well.



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