



Introduction Guide To The Care Of Sugar Gliders

Scientific Name: Petaurus breviceps

Life Span: Approx 10-15 years in captivity

Size: 5-6 inches long

Appearance: Sugar gliders are marsupials; the young are born very immature and grow in a pouch on the mother's abdomen. Sugar gliders have furry membranes that extend from their wrists to their ankles (the membrane is called a patagium) that allows them to glide through the air. In the wild they move from tree to tree by gliding. Their hind feet have a large, opposable big toe that helps them grip branches, and the second and third toe forms a grooming comb.

Temperament and Handling: Sugar gliders are very social and need and crave lots of companionship. This makes them bond well to their owners, and if you can provide a lot of attention and spend the necessary time with your glider, keeping a single glider can work. Otherwise, consider keeping more than one glider, ideally a same sex pair (or a female and neutered male) to prevent repeated breeding. Introducing adults is difficult though so it is best to raise them together from a young age. Sugar gliders are nocturnal so they will be most active during the night. They will usually be happy to spend time with their owners during the day though - sleeping in a pocket or bonding pouch. If a sugar glider is not tame when acquired, time, patience, and gentle frequent training sessions will eventually allow bonding of the glider to its owner. Gliders adore being near their owners, inside a shirt (hint wear two shirts and let the glider hang out between them, or else their claws will tickle or scratch!) or in a pocket. They will be lovely companions, who view you as an equal. Sugar gliders do not respond at all to punishment or domination, so treat them with respect, gentleness and understanding, and you will be rewarded with a devoted companion

Housing: As for housing, a cage of 24 by 24 inches, by 36 inches high is a good minimum size for a pair. This is a minimum, though - bigger is better and for sugar gliders the height is more valuable than floor space. The cage wire should be no more than 1/2 inch wide, and horizontal cage bars allow climbing. The interior of the cage should provide lots of interest with toys, and exercise wheel, nest box and/or glider pouch. Branches, ropes and ladders provide lots of opportunity for climbing and exercise.

Heating and Lighting: n/a



WEIRD 'N' WONDERFUL

Pets and reptiles

Feeding: Sugar gliders are omnivorous. It is their love of sweets that earned them their name. In the wild, sugar gliders feed on nectar and pollen from eucalyptus blossoms. They also like the sap from the eucalyptus tree. To reach the sap, they bite holes into the tree bark until they access the goo inside. In addition, they feed on assorted insects and larvae, small birds, mice, seeds and nuts. They spend much of their time foraging for food. During food shortages, sugar gliders may go into states of dormancy or torpor until food supplies are improved. Since sugar gliders are omnivores they will eat a wide variety of foods. A healthy diet will consist of about three parts fresh fruits to one part protein. A good rule of thumb is: the more variety you offer, the healthier your sugar glider will be. You will have to experiment and see what your gliders like to avoid excessive waste. Often finicky eaters, each glider has definite likes and dislikes. But typically they all like sweet fruits (melons, apples, berries, grapes, tomatoes, and pears). Offer vegetables such as corn, squash, peas, yams, carrots, cucumbers, and broccoli. And include protein-rich foods like crickets, mealworms, baby mice, bone marrow, turkey, monkey chow, cat food, and egg. And for special treats, you may offer your sugar glider a tiny bit of honey or real maple syrup dribbled over their food. Sugar gliders like assorted nuts and seeds too, particularly sunflower and pumpkin seeds. However, since nuts and some seeds are relatively high in fat content, these food items should be offered in smaller portions.

Please note that this is only an introductory guide based on our opinions and experience, we advise you to continually research and learn as much as possible from as many sources as you can, every animal is different and new care and information is always being developed and found 😊