



Practice Limited to Birds, Reptiles and Exotics

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AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES
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Sugar Glider Care Sheet

Sugar gliders (*Petaurus breviceps*) are marsupials native to Australia and New Guinea. Their average lifespan in captivity is 12-15 years. Sugar gliders are normally nocturnal, but may be able to adjust to any schedule. They are colony animals, and it is strongly recommended to house them in groups of two or more. If not given enough social interaction, sugar gliders may self-mutilate.

HOUSING: The recommended enclosure size for 1-2 adult animals is 36 inches wide by 24 inches deep by 40 inches high. Large aviary cages are the most practical option. Additional height is the primary consideration. Paper lining is preferred over wood shavings. Feces and soiled papers should be removed daily. The ideal temperature is 75-80 F. Night-time temperature should not drop below 70 F.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT: Toys with loose strings or wires should be avoided as these could entangle the animal. Solid exercise wheels provide necessary exercise. Plants and branches are recommended to promote leaping and climbing. Quality artificial plants or various sized branches of nontoxic trees can be used.

DIET: Free-ranging sugar gliders' diet consists of the sugary sap of the Eucalyptus and acacias. Insects, arachnids, small vertebrates, and nectar/pollen from blossoms are also consumed. This diet is extremely difficult to replicate in captivity.

Various sugar glider diets or recipes are available including:

- 75 % Nutritionally balanced insectivore/sugar glider kibble, 25% sliced fresh fruits and vegetables, and a calcium-based multivitamin.
- 50% Leadbeater's mix with 50% insectivore/sugar glider kibble
 - Leadbeater's mix mimics the gum/nectar portion of their diet - 150 ml warm water, 150 ml honey, 1 egg (boiled and shelled), 1 ounce high protein baby cereal, and 1 tsp vitamin/mineral supplement. Blend until smooth and keep refrigerated until served. Multiple portions can be frozen in ice cube trays and individual cubes thawed when needed.
- Treats should be no more than 5% of daily intake - acceptable treats include small portions of fruit, yogurt, and applesauce. Live foods such as mealworms, crickets, waxworms, and moths maybe be offered, and should first be dusted with a calcium/mineral powder.

Fresh portions should be fed in the evening and removed every morning. Filtered spring or drinking water should be available at all times in both a water bottle and small weighted bowl.

MOST COMMON DISORDERS:

- Obesity or malnutrition, which may be expressed as hind-limb paralysis, blindness, dehydration, cataracts, metabolic bone disease, and seizures; hair loss may typically be seen
- Diarrhea, resulting from a change in diet, inappropriate diet containing too high sugar content, bacterial overgrowths, or intestinal parasites
- Stress-related diseases, including self-mutilation (particularly solitary animals)
- Pneumonia, trauma, dental disease, neoplasia

For more information, see www.asgv.org

Our recommended kibble diets can be found at www.zoofood.com/insectivore and www.vetspride.com

We strongly recommend annual health examinations on all exotics!

