

Introduction to Sugar Gliders

Facts

- Sugar gliders are nocturnal. They sleep most of the day and are awake most of the night.
- Gliders are colony animals and MUST have at least one friend of their own species. They can die of depression if they are kept alone.
- Sugar gliders are native to the forests of Australia and Asia. They cannot live in the wild in the United States.
- Sugar gliders can live up to 12-15 years.

Socialization

- Sugar gliders have different personalities. Most are not cuddly and prefer not to be held.
- Male sugar gliders should be neutered to avoid aggression and breeding. Female sugar gliders are not spayed.
- All sugar gliders bite sometimes.
- Because of their involved care requirements, they do not make ideal pets for young children.

Diet

- Like any other animal, sugar gliders require a balanced diet and multiple water sources.
- Acceptable diets can be homemade by following a recipe, or purchased online.
- Most pet stores do not carry sugar glider food that is good for sugar gliders.
- Sugar gliders are omnivores and enjoy a variety of foods such as vegetables, fruits, live insects, cooked proteins, yogurt, and many other items.
- Sugar gliders enjoy sweet foods, which should be fed in moderation to avoid obesity and dental issues.

Habitat

- Sugar gliders require very large enclosures with bar spacing no wider than ½ inch.
- Because sugar gliders are nocturnal and spend most of their waking hours in their enclosures, they need stimulation such as toys, wheels, and other items.
- Sugar gliders have special safety requirements for wheels, sleeping pouches, and toys. Items that are not specifically and thoughtfully made for sugar gliders are likely to cause injury or death.
- They prefer temperatures of 70-75°F, and will die if they get too hot or too cold for prolonged periods.

Habits

- Sugar gliders require feeding once per day in the evening.
- Sugar gliders bathe themselves and do not generally require bathing by their owners.
- Sugar gliders are naturally curious, and can get themselves into dangerous situations if allowed to roam freely in the house or outside. They are master escape artists.
- Accidental deaths are generally caused by drowning in standing water (toilets), owner neglect (lack of water), or coming into contact with other animals (dogs, cats).
- Sugar gliders require medical care. Most vets are not experienced with gliders, so finding one that has glider experience is imperative for the safety of your gliders.
- Common medical issues include dental problems, intestinal parasites, and infections.

For more information on Sugar Gliders and Sugar Glider Guardians:

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