



All About the **Sugar Glider**

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The Sugar Glider

About the Sugar Glider

Sugar Gliders are small little marsupials, similar in size to a squirrel. They are native to Australia, yet many of the Sugar Gliders we have in the US today were imported from Indonesia. They get their name for their love of sweets, mainly tree sap, and their ability to “glide” from tree to tree, up to 150 feet. They are considered exotic animals, and not all states allow people to own a Sugar Glider.

Sugar Glider Characteristics

A Sugar Glider is approximately 11 inches long, with nearly 6 inches of the length being their tail. Their fur is very soft, and colored in shades gray with a white underside and a black stripe from the tip nose, over the head, and down the back. The very end of the tail is a solid black. They have no hair on their ears, which are rather large, and big, dark round eyes. Because their tail is so long, it can use it for balance when they are leaping back and forth in the trees. Their hands and feet are similar to humans, with four fingers and an opposing thumb. As a marsupial, Sugar Gliders have a pouch, where they can carry their young.

Selecting Your Sugar Glider

Since Sugar Gliders are considered an exotic breed, you will not likely find them in a local pet store. Searching the Internet and locating a Sugar Glider breeder or adopting one from a rescue facility will be your best options. Breeders are required to have a special license in order to breed Sugar Gliders, and in some states, the animals are not allowed. It is best to check with your local state animal ordinances to ensure you are even able to have one. Select a Sugar Glider that has been newly weaned, which will allow them to form a strong bond with you. There are very little differences between males and females, and both will make equally good pets.

How to Choose Your New Sugar Glider

Before You Bring Him Home

Sugar Gliders are very social creatures, and need quite a bit of attention. They can become easily depressed or withdrawn if they are neglected and left alone. It is best to purchase a captive-raised Sugar Glider, since they will normally be of better health, and are used to being around humans. If you are not comfortable examining the Sugar Glider, you can take them to a vet that specializes in exotic pets for a physical exam. Things to look for are:

- Bright eyes
- A moist, pink nose
- Good gripping ability with all feet
- Clean ear canals; clear of obstruction or buildup
- A soft, smooth coat
- No parasites in the feces



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Through The Years

The Sugar Glider Joey

Joeys move to a special pouch on the front of their mother after they are born. They will stay there for about 2 months, emerging fully covered with their fur. They will continue to nurse on the mother and ride on her back (and sometimes the dad's too) until they are about 5 months old. There can be 1-4 per litter, and usually 3-4 litters per year. In the wild, babies will be born the silver-gray color, yet as they mature, the coloring will often turn to a sable or brown color. It is said that this is due to the tree sap and other foods that they eat.

The Sugar Glider Adult

Adult Sugar Gliders can be a lot of fun to have as pets, especially since they are exotic animals, and many people are still not familiar with the breed. They are quite curious and can get into all sorts of trouble if they are not properly supervised when out of their cages. It is best to only take them outside at night, or when it is cloudy, since the bright sun can be harmful to their nocturnal eyes. Sugar Gliders can be trained to fly to you, after they have gotten to know you, and are bribed a little with treats.

The Sugar Glider Senior

Sugar Gliders live quite a long life, 10-15 years. As they age, there are certain medical concerns that will arise. Often, cataracts can affect their eyes. Loneliness is another big concern for older Gliders, especially if they have lost a companion they have lived with for quite some time. These pets need a lot of attention, or they can become extremely depressed.

Medical Considerations

Hind leg paralysis is a concern with Sugar Gliders, as well as blindness and/or cataracts. Do your best to locate an exotic animal vet to treat your Sugar Glider, as they will be best qualified to treat them.

Necessary Items

Sugar gliders need a cage - at least 20 x 20 x 30 inches. Taller cages are best, since Sugar Gliders love to climb. Perches and ropes are also nice additions to the cage. They also need some sort of shelter in their cage where it will be dark and they can sleep during the day. This can be something homemade, such as a box, or a specialized house for Sugar Gliders purchased online. Gliders also need to be fed plenty of protein, fresh water, calcium, and a small amount of fats and sweets. There are a lot of recipes and special mixtures available on the Internet for making your own Sugar Glider food.



Popular Products for your Glider

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