

PISCES

PET EMPORIUM



Photo by Pisces Pet Emporium

Sugar Glider

Petaurus breviceps

Lifespan: 10-12 years.

Size: Sugar Gliders grow to be 12-15cm long (body length; tail is usually as long as body) and weigh 90-130g. Males are slightly larger than females.

Maturity/Breeding: Sugar Gliders reach sexually mature when they are 4-12 months old. Their gestation period is 15-17 days; after this time they will crawl from their mother's womb into her pouch, where they will stay for 60-70 days. Females can get pregnant after the Joeys leave the womb and will hold the pregnancy until the pouch is ready. Typically, they have 1-3 babies, but 2 is most common. Neutering the males will prevent unwanted pregnancies and will help control unwanted smell and behavior

Enclosure: Sugar Gliders should be kept in barred cage with the bar space being no larger than 0.5". They are extremely active animals and need a large space to live. A minimum of 20"x20"x36" would be suitable for one pet. However, due to the social needs of Sugar Gliders, two or more Sugar Gliders should be kept together. Perches, ropes, nests and toys should be included in the enclosure. **Pisces recommends: Critter Nation 2 Level Cage (Model 162).**

Heating: Sugar Gliders are extremely sensitive to temperature changes; an ambient temperature of 75° F (° C) to 80° F (° C) should be maintained. An infrared heat lamp should be used at all times to maintain a constant temperature. **Pisces recommends: Fluker's 5.5" Clamp Lamp & ExoTerra 50W-75W Infrared Basking Spot Lamp**

UV Lighting: In order to help your Sugar Glider produce the needed amount of Vitamin D3 (especially during breeding or growing), provide it with UV lighting for 10-12 hours per day. Lighting should be filtered through branches or artificial plants. Sugar Gliders are nocturnal but UV lighting should be provided throughout the day; they will absorb it during their active periods: early morning and late evening. **Pisces recommends: ExoTerra Reptile UVB 10.0.**

Feeding:

Daytime Feeding: Take out uneaten leadbeaters and replace with fresh pellets. Commercial Sugar Glider pellets can remain in the cage all day. Ensure all food has a 2:1 calcium to phosphorous level to prevent hind leg paralysis. Lori nectar should be offered every other day in a bottle. **Pisces recommends: Mazuri Insectivore Diet.**

Nighttime Feeding: Sugar Gliders are nocturnal, so wet feeding should be done at nighttime. Sugar Gliders are so active, they can consume up to their own body weight in food every day. Fresh water should be available at all times from a bottle or dish. Sugar Gliders also need 1 heaping tbsp. per glider of fresh fruit/veggie mix given with the modified leadbeater diet. A nighttime meal can be prepared as follows:

Modified Leadbeaters diet

1 Tsp for each glider

150ml warm water

150ml honey

1 hard boiled egg/ with shell

1/2 Gerber dried cereal/oatmeal or mixed

1/2 cup wheat germ

1tsp calcium powder (not phosphorus) RepCal

1/2 tsp herpavite

25g high protein baby cereal or 1 jar baby food (chicken/turkey)

Mix all ingredients in blender and blend until smooth with no lumps. Keep refrigerated or frozen. **Discard any refrigerated portions after 3 days.

Vitamins, Supplements & Treats: Feed 1-2 bugs nightly to gliders unless another protein source is given as a treat. Giving treats is an excellent way to bond with your new pets. Ideal treats include: nuts, seeds, yogurt, cottage cheese, and dried fruit.

Sugar Gliders love treats, however they should be given in moderation. Giving treats is an excellent way to bond with your new pet. Sample treats include worms, insects, yogurt, cottage cheese, and nuts.

Pisces recommends: RepCal Calcium w/D3 and RepCal Herptivite Multi-Vitamin

Handling: Sugar Gliders are extremely social animals and will be much happier with another Sugar Glider companion. Sugar Gliders kept alone are more prone to stress related syndromes. Do not grab Sugar Gliders; instead gently scoop using the back of your hand.

Health Care: Sugar Gliders are prone to respiratory infections, parasites (internal or external), hind leg paralysis and some types of Cancers. Sugar Gliders are very sensitive and will manifest stress in various ways. They are extremely good at hiding illnesses, so an annual vet exam is recommended.

Grooming: Never let a Sugar Glider get wet; it will groom itself. You can bath your Sugar Glider once in a while using a dust bath.

Exercise/Toys: Your Sugar Glider will be most active and can be very loud at night, making hissing, barking and chirping noises. This is when he will run on his wheel, dig, eat, and make noise. There are many other things that your pet will find amusing: i.e.: cardboard boxes, tunnels, paper bags, ramps etc. Never use a harness as this will damage the gliding membrane. **Pisces recommends: SuperPet 12" Giant Silent Spinner**

Safe Handling of Small Animals*: As with all living creatures, small animals can carry microorganisms which can make people ill. To reduce the chances of infection, always follow these safe handling steps:

- Always wash your hands thoroughly after you handle your pet, its food and anything it has touched.
- Keep your pet in a habitat designed for it; do not let your pet bird roam around the home without proper supervision.
- Keep your pet, its food dishes and cage components out of the kitchen.
- Don't nuzzle or kiss your pet.
- Infants, children under 5 years of age, pregnant women, the elderly, and those with a compromised immune system have a greater risk of infection. Extra caution should be taken when they are in contact with any animal. Children under 5 should handle reptiles only under adult/parent supervision.

Recommended Books: This care sheet is designed to provide you with some basic information on your new pet. To learn more about how to care for your pet read the following:

Pisces recommends: Sugar Gliders, A Complete Owners Manual by Barron's Books.

Recommended Supplies:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Well ventilated, mesh cage | <input type="checkbox"/> Heat lamp & bulb |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apple, aspen or willow branches | <input type="checkbox"/> Mealworms/and or crickets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ceramic food dish x 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Play wheel (plastic) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle x 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sugar Glider pellet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calcium and vitamin powder | <input type="checkbox"/> Full spectrum lighting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Several toys, Pouch | |

Your New Pet: It is the responsibility of any pet owner to provide their pet with regular veterinary care to maintain their pet's health and to prevent illness.

Should you experience any problems with your new pet, contact Pisces Pet Emporium. We will make every effort to assist you but we may refer you to a qualified veterinarian if the problem is beyond our ability to treat.

A pet is a large responsibility and should not be purchased without due consideration. Pets should never be released into the wild.



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*Safe handling information courtesy of PIJAC Canada