

**MY LITTLE
SUGAR
GLIDER**



Care & Feeding Guide for Sugar Gliders

www.mylittlesugarglider.com

**BREEDING GLIDERS
SINCE 1997**



FAQ about sugar gliders

WHAT ARE SUGAR GLIDERS?

Petaurus breviceps are a marsupial that were imported into this country originally as pets in the early 1990's. Towards the end of the 90's, the respective countries where this species originated (Australia, Indonesia, and New Guinea) stopped importing them because they are on the endangered species list. There have been several other sub-species imported since then (the Caramel and the Ebony Sorong), but it has been found if we try to breed these varieties to our own, we wind up with sterile gliders. It's very similar to breeding a horse and a donkey....you get a mule

Sugar Gliders are nocturnal, and most do not like to come out if the lights are left on too bright. We must keep them in a room where it's at least semi-dark during their waking hours. They are not suggested as a "bedroom pet" because for a tiny animal, they can make as much "big" noise playing and "talking" to one another, as a small dog.

HOW LONG CAN THEY LIVE?

When I started gliders, the diets of the time only allowed them to live about 5 to 8 years. The newer protein based diets we have now, are apparently much better for their systems. Gliders are being reported more and more to live longer and healthier lives of 10 to 12 years or more. This is a long lived pet, if cared for correctly.

ARE THEY BEARS?

No. They are marsupials. Bears is a misleading label from one of the largest mill brokers in the country.

BONDING WITH SUGAR GLIDERS

Sugar gliders are not truly domesticated animals, therefore, they are considered exotics. Rarely will a sugar glider be ready to "cuddle" with a new owner right away, even if they may do so with the breeder—they know the breeder already. You need to invest some time in working with the animals yourself. Sugar gliders bond by scent and most are going to be extremely scared in a new home environment. You will have to work with your animals slowly each night to get them accustomed to their new home, people, and other pets you may have in it. Scared gliders will crab and sometimes bite, so

please keep this in mind. You are very large compared to them, and they do not know you. Many people find the bonding process to go smoother with an inexpensive camping tent. The idea is that you go inside with them. Bring treats and toys. With the enclosed environment, the animals feel as though they are in a cage with you, and will eventually regard you as being another cage-mate. The time period for bonding varies with each glider and the level of patience a person has in getting them there. There will be no set time frame for this. Bonding with your gliders can be a challenge, but if you have the patience, the rewards are great.

CAN GLIDERS BE POTTY TRAINED?

No, they cannot. This is another myth mill brokers tell people to make them more attractive to purchase. Gliders sometimes urinate when they are scared, and they do not always know they are defecating.

DOES MY GLIDER NEED A BUDDY?

The answer is yes. Sugar gliders are colony animals and it would be going against nature to not keep them in at least pairs. We as humans, cannot possibly meet all their emotional needs. Sugar Gliders stress out very easily if kept alone. A lone glider easily can go into depression which can lead to stress and possible self mutilation. We at My Little Sugar Glider, prefer to sell joeys in pairs, unless you already have a glider at home of like age already needing a companion. Never attempt to bond a joey to an adult. The results would be instantly disastrous.

WHICH IS MORE TAME?

The answer is neither. In all the years I have been with gliders, I have had my fair share of both calm and easy going males and females, as well as high strung on both sexes. Each glider has it's own personality. Even litter-mates that look identical can be like night or day. We just have to work with each of our pets as an individual and treat them as such.

Older gliders will also bond to a new owner. Sometimes, it's easier for them than it is for joeys. I have received older gliders from other breeders, and after the "getting to know you" period, they were just fine.



What do the eat?

NEUTER THE MALE?

Absolutely. If you aren't a breeder, there is no need to have the male intact. Here are the plus side benefits of neuter. One, they don't smell. Intact males have scent glands on their heads and chests that they use to mark their cage and other cage-mates. They also use urine and this can be very challenging to breathe if you are not used to this. A male joey neutered at a young age, will not become territorial, thus not marking his territory. It prevents unwanted joeys, and it also keeps two male companions from becoming territorial upon maturity and possibly killing each other. It also will help to eliminate the possibility of testicular cancer later in life. Unfortunately, there is no safe method in which to spay female marsupials at this time. Adult females will be very territorial with gliders they do not know and normally will not accept another female into her cage unless they were always together as joeys. If her companion dies, it is suggested you get a neutered male as a friend, six months or age or older.

WHAT DO THEY EAT?

There is a lot of debate about the best diets. The diets I highly recommend to you are the higher protein diets we know keep them alive the longest. Rarely do we see gliders on pellet based diets live past 5 or 6 years of age. Usually, they die sooner due to liver and kidney issues and possibly Hind Leg Paralysis. Most pellets are made with beef and pork and grain fillers. Beef and pork are both very hard for gliders to digest and may wind up causing many health issues in a short period of time. Sugar gliders do not eat grains of any type in the wild, therefore any food that has grains in it, should be considered junk. There are only two brands of pellet that use chicken and these are mail order only. Those brands are Pet Pro (used here) and Suncoast. The breeders who use these pellets use them in limited doses and in conjunction with other vet approved diets.

Sugar Gliders are Omnivorous which means the main part of their diet is protein, followed by good helpings of fruits and veggies. In order to maintain optimal health, they should have a minimum of 52% protein and then the rest filled in by the fruits and veggie selections. They need a 2 to one ratio of calcium to phosphorus. On my website, I talk about 2 different diets we know have kept gliders healthy for the last 10 years or more. These diets

were already worked out to give your gliders that balance, so there is no need for you to do the math. The diet I will give you here is a modified version of the Original HPW (High Wombaroo Protein diet) that my vet and I worked upon years ago when I was in the Midwest. It's kept my gliders healthy and happy all this time. The High Wombaroo Protein powder comes from Australia and is manufactured with natural ingredients by a husband and wife wildlife rescue team. They have used it to feed the sugar gliders they take in for over 40 years.

MY LITTLE SUGAR GLIDER MODIFIED VERSION OF HPW DIET

- ¼ cup of High Wombaroo Protein Powder
- ½ cup of honey (pure, 100% on label or fresh from the farmer is fine)
- 1 cup of filtered, distilled or bottled water
- 3 scrambled or boiled eggs
- 1 cup of Bolthouse Farms Green Goodness Juice
- 1 Tablespoon bee pollen

The mixture does not have to contain the Bolthouse farms. It's optional. If you choose not to use it, then bump the water up to 2 cups.

The mixture goes into the blender until smooth. You can put this into ice cube trays in the freezer to preserve in teaspoon measurements. Nightly give:

- 1 ½ teaspoons of mixture per glider
- 1 Tablespoon mixed fruits per glider
- 1 Tablespoon mixed veggies per glider

This mixture will make up about 50 days or so of the main diet for a pair of gliders.

Mealworms can be used as treats, but never giants as they are given growth hormones. Mealworms should be verified that they have only grown and were fed with natural mixtures such as wheat bran and spirulina (sea weed).

My Little Sugar Glider carries starter packs of the HPW Powder as well as bee pollen, a bit of Pet Pro Supreme and some glider safe snacks in the store and there are



Housing and checkups

also several other reliable sources. Beware of the imitator products of HPW that come in powder form and you are supposed to just “add water.” These are inferior products that have caused sickness and death in many gliders.

Remember, they are called “sugar gliders”, but leave the sugar treats to a minimum. Too much sugar in a gliders diet can make them fat and will also block their ability to absorb calcium and can raise a lot of health issues.

VET CHECKUPS?

Sugar Gliders are very hardy by nature and if we do our part by keeping their cages and environment clean and feeding a diet such as HPW, you will be well on the way to helping these little ones reach their goal age of 10 to 12 years or more. However, they are exotics and exotics by nature can hide sickness until it may be too late. It's always recommend to make sure that your gliders get at least yearly wellness exams with your vet and to make sure parasite screenings are done at that time. Parasites can come from other animals, but also food and water sources. Always use bottled, distilled or filtered water when mixing up diets and filling their water bottle. The main issues to look out for would be parasites and to make sure your gliders do not get a draft in your home, as they can be prone to colds in drafty areas. Sugar gliders will make a sneezing sound from time to time, but look to see what they are doing. If they are grooming, this is the sound of them spitting on their fur to clean. That's nothing to be worried about. There are no known shots given to sugar gliders at this time.

Also, another cause of having to visit your vet is accidental injury. Make sure that your gliders are kept in their cages at all times for safety, if you cannot watch them. Most accidents with gliders happen because they are allowed to roam freely in a person's home. They get into things you might not even think of. Some of my past customers have reported these common accidents: stepped on while running across the floor or sat on in a cushion or bed; falling into toilets and drowning (they are not good swimmers because of the flying membranes); crushed by furniture; fell asleep in a towel and placed in a washing machine; squeezed by an inquisitive toddler or number one, prey to other household pets. Allowing gliders to roam looks fun and natural, but is not a safe practice. If you cannot watch them for 100% of the time they are out, that's when they will get hurt. These injuries

usually end up in death or very high surgery bills.

WHAT KIND OF CAGE?

Most all powder coated and epoxy coated cages are safe for sugar gliders. You can see good examples of safe on my webstore. Taller is always better. What you DO NOT want to use are either the Black PVC Coated Cages (looks like a rubber coating) or Silver galvanized wire that is used mostly used for rabbit cages. The PVC wire is made by one manufacture in the country. These used to be very sturdy and trustworthy cages for us. However, for the sake of the recent recession, this company changed the plastic used to coat the cages. It is apparently safe for other types of animals, but for sugar gliders, it eventually makes them very sick. They pick up the toxin through their skin and it can slowly poison them. The silver galvanized cages have an adverse reaction to the acidic urine of sugar gliders, and can cause urinary tract infections. Taller is better, but some do have wider cages. Make sure your wire spacing is 1/2" or less, or the gliders will escape. If your cage is not already on a stand, make sure you place it on some sort of tabletop. Seeing feet all the time, tends to make them nervous.

In their cages we keep fleece pouches, glider safe toys that are made from talented sugar glider owners around the country. I have ways to help you get in touch with the best. We do not buy pet store or mail order toys or sleeping pouches as most are usually from China and are unsafe.

We keep safe wheels for exercise and I can tell you the safe ones for gliders. Some are professionally made and are actually handcrafted by talented glider slaves.

We use bowls which are washed daily for the HPW Diet and for the fruits and veggies. It's much more sanitary to use a water bottle than a bowl for drinking with either filtered, distilled or bottled water.

Safe litter medium can be newspaper or products such Carefresh or Yesterday's News. Some even use puppy weaning pads which can go in the washing machine. Never use pine, cedar or kitty litter.

DO I NEED A HOT ROCK?

A weaned sugar glider can regulate their own body tem-



Shipping and legal areas

perature well. As long as you keep the room comfortable for you and they have a buddy to snuggle with, they will be fine. Make sure in the summer months not to keep the room they are in cooler than 55 degrees. Gliders do not have the ability to go into hibernation like some animals and this could kill them. Heat rocks and lamps are not safe for sugar gliders. Heat rocks can vary quite a bit in temperature and can actually burn the animals. Also, most gliders are chewers for fun and if they chew the cord, it's instant death. Lamps will annoy them because of the light, and sometimes they can get too hot for them as well.

ARE THEY LEGAL EVERYWHERE?

No, they are not. If you live in the states of California, Pennsylvania, Hawaii or Alaska, you cannot have them. If you live in certain areas of the country such as St. Paul, MN; the 5 boroughs of New York (Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, or Manhattan), you cannot own sugar gliders and I will not be able to sell to you. If you live in Georgia, they are legal, only if obtained from a USDA breeder. Some areas and states require permits like New Jersey or New Mexico. If you live there, you must obtain your permit number from the state first, before I can sell to you. If unsure of your area, please contact your local humane society and they will have the laws.

CAN THEY BE SHIPPED?

Yes. Currently, we can do that to legal states. Some of the planes have "climate controlled" areas for the animals and when they are placed from one plane to another, it is done with great care. Per FAA Regulations, exotics cannot come on board as carry on, and must be shipped cargo on to a special pet equipped plane. Please contact me with your city and state for quote. If course, if you live locally, you have the option of coming to Lake Havasu to pick up when the joeys are ready, or I can deliver them within a reasonable distance for a fee. I deliver as far as Phoenix and Las Vegas, unless I happen to be going further for a reason. Anything further usually requires airline shipping, as my two closest cargo offices are in those cities.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

I have 21 years of experience with these guys and I am

here for you at anytime, even after the sale, to help answer any questions and help with bonding issues, etc. I even can find out who the glider savory vets are in your area. I also breed with pedigrees. My sugar glider joeys have a minimum of 5 generations (usually more) on both sides to ensure that they will be free of genetic defects due to inbreeding. If you buy males for pets, I will have them neutered for you with Dr. Lange in Lake Havasu City before you get them, so you need not worry about that. The neuter is included in their price. I also randomly test my gilders 4 times a year with VETDNA.com for parasites. You may ask for a copy of my most recent results. My commitment is to help educate people correctly about these remarkable creatures and to help you to keep a healthy and happy environment for your pets. I will be here for you even years down the road if there is a question or issue. If I don't know the answer, I will do my magic and talk to all the wonderful sources I have with sugar gliders in the glider community, to help find out. The adults here are my pets and the joeys you adopt are my grandbabies.

A LIST OF COLORS I CARRY

CLASSIC GRAY
WHITE FACE BLONDE
CARAMEL
LEUCISTIC
PLATINUM
TRUE PLATINUM MOSAIC
MOSAIC
RINGTAIL MOSAIC
PIEBALD MOSAIC
CRÈME-INO
REDS

USDA Breeder #86-A-0086
My Little Sugar Glider
Lake Havasu City, AZ
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Preparing and feeding for two sugar gliders.

Step 1

Boil three large eggs for 15 minutes. After 15 minutes remove and let cool. Peel eggs and discard shells.



Step 2

Measure 2 1/2 cups of water.



Step 3

Measure 1/2 cup of honey.



Step 4

Measure 1 tablespoon of Bee Pollen.



Step 5

Measure 1/4 cup wombaroo powder.



Step 6

Place all ingredients in a blender. Blend until thoroughly mixed.



Step 7

Pour a tablespoon of mix into each cavity of an ice cube tray. Look for the silicone 15 compartment type. This will make about a month of food for 2 gliders. Place both trays in freezer.



Step 8

Cut fruit up into small pieces about 1/4" size. Fruit can be strawberries, apples, oranges, grapes, pineapple, blackberries, raspberries. See back page for complete list.



Step 9

Cut vegetables into small pieces. These can be carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, peas, string beans. Put any extra fruit and vegetables in a zip lock bag or container.



Step 10

Place 2 tablespoons of fruit, and 2 tablespoons of vegetables in a 4 oz. crock pet bowl. Sprinkle 1/4 teaspoon Pet Pro Sprinkles on top of food. Place remainder of food in refrigerator.



Step 11

In another bowl, place one teaspoon of Pet Pro Dry Supreme dry food. Never allow dry food to get wet. They won't eat it.



Step 12

Take one frozen cube and place in the third bowl. We usually feed 3 hours before they wake up so the cube has melted.



Safe Vegetables & Fruits

Apple
 Apricot
 Asparagus
 Aubergine (Eggplant)
 Avocado
 Banana
 Beets
 Blackberries
 Blueberries
 Broccoli
 Brussels Sprout
 Butternut Squash
 Carrot
 Celery
 Cherry
 Corn
 Courgette (Zucchini)
 Cucumbers
 Dates
 Elderberry
 Endive
 Fennel
 Fig
 Grapes
 Green Beans
 Guava
 Jerusalem Artichoke
 Kiwi
 Kumquats
 Lettuce (all types)
 Leek
 Mango
 Melon (all types)
 Nectarine
 Oranges
 Pea
 Pears
 Peppers (except hot varieties)
 Plums

Safe Vegetables & Fruits continued

Pineapple
 Pomegranate
 Prickly Pear (leaves or fruit—
 dethroned)
 Pumpkin
 Quince
 Radish
 Raspberries
 Rhubarb (no leaves)
 Spinach
 Strawberry
 Squash—all edible varieties
 Sweet Potato
 Tangerines
 Tomato
 Turnip
 Ugli Fruit
 Vine Leaves (such as from
 grapes)
 Watercress
 Watermelon
 Yam



Always prepare items as you would for yourself such as removing seeds and pits. The key to good health is to vary items out each week. Look for what is in season. Avoid onions, garlic or lima beans, as they are difficult to digest. White potatoes are very starchy and should be avoided as well.

Safe snacks for sugar gliders

Snacks are OK for occasion. We should always give sparingly as many of the snacks can be fattening. Too many snacks given with processed sugar, can block your glider's ability to absorb calcium. Little doses go a long way. Never give any products containing chocolate.

Any type of dried fruit (no sugar is preferred)
 Honey Sticks
 Pet Pro Snacks such as O's or Friendchips
 Mini Marshmallows
 Yogurt Treats
 Whole Grain Cereal such as non-sugared Shredded Wheat
 Mealworms
 Nuts Shelled—no salt

Colors available



Classic Gray



Caramel



Ruby Jew



Creme-ine



Mosaic



Leucistic



Black Beauty



Platinum



Albino



Reds



White Face Blonde