

SUGAR GLIDER CARE SHEET

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Sugar Glider (Petaurus Breviceps) Diet

* Diet in the Wild

The natural diet of Sugar Gliders includes the sugary sap, “Manna”, or gum, of the Eucalyptus and acacias, in which small insects are also trapped and consumed. Insects, arachnids, small vertebrates, and the nectar and pollen from the blossoms of many tree and plant species are all consumed by Sugar Gliders. The Glider has been observed to eat honeydew, and excess sugar secreted by sap-sucking insects.

* Diet in Captivity

A proper diet consists of a variety of foods appropriate for insectivores/carnivores (At least 50% of total intake, particularly if they are active breeders) along with sources of fruit sugars, preferably in the form of a sap or nectar. Fresh portions should be given in the evening. A zoo-formula for insectivores can be used. Several different kinds of pet-industry raised insects (fed a commercial cricket diet or enriched feed) or insects dusted with a complete vitamin/mineral powder should be offered as well. Captive Sugar Gliders will even eat small birds and mammals, such as pinkie mice. Portion size for 1 glider is roughly 1 tablespoon of insects plus 1 tablespoon of nectar, and fresh water should always be available. This may be increased or decreased depending on the animal’s growth and activity level (reproduction and otherwise). If fruit is fed as a treat, small bits of a variety should be chopped together to decrease the ability of the glider to pick out only its favorite parts, and a small amount of multiple vitamin/mineral powder should be mixed through it as well. It is not proven that the commercial lorikeet or glider nectars are adequate to provide complete or partial nutrition.

-Over-

***Suggested Diet: Feed in the evening. A 1-glider portion includes:**

1) Leadbeater’s Mix, the gum/nectar component of the diet (50% of daily intake):
150 ml warm water, 150 ml honey, 1 egg (boiled and shelled), 25g (one ounce) high

protein Baby cereal (from grocery store- granular form), and 1 tsp vitamin/mineral supplement (Vionate, Nekton, Bird Vitamin). Mix warm water and honey; then vitamin powder; then baby cereal, blending after each addition until smooth. Keep refrigerated until served. Recipe can be increased; multiple portions can be frozen in an ice cube tray and individual cubes thawed when needed. Storage of frozen cubes in an Ziplock freezer bag is ideal for long term storage.

2) Insectivore/carnivore diet (50%): Examples include Insectivore Diet (Reliable Hedgehog Diet (Pretty Pets International, Inc, Stacy, Minn, (800)-356-5020). Live food such as moths, spiders, crickets, waxworms, large and small mealworms, or a variety of commercially available insects may also be fed in the evening. The insects should be fed or dusted with a calcium/mineral powder.

3) Treat foods (no more than 5%-10%): Approximately 1 tsp various fruits, chopped. You may add bee pollen or vitamin/mineral supplement.