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Sugar Glider (Petaurus breviceps) Care Sheet

SUPPLIES:

- Enclosure: Minimum - 24 inches cubed. Recommended - 24 inches wide x 24 inches deep x 48 inches tall or larger. You must ensure that your enclosure has secure door locks, and that the bar spacing is less than 1/2 inch to prevent escapes.
- Substrate, such as carefresh, Boxo, white wood shavings, etc. **DO NOT USE PINE OR CEDAR AS THEY CONTAIN POTENT TOXINS WHICH WILL KILL YOUR SUGAR GLIDER.**
- 1 hanging water bottle, and 2 or 3 food bowls (based on the variety of foods offered).
- 1 CSE sleeping pouch or sleeping hammock, and 1 CSE mini condo or condo.
- 1 CSE Sugar Glider wheel upgraded with the CSE nail trimming kit.
- 1 CSE Zippered Bonding pouch, with or without window.
- **OPTIONAL:** CSE custom cage cover; for rooms that are not completely dark at night, and/or contain lots of activity.

SETUP:

- Place roughly 1 -2 inches of substrate in the enclosure.
- Place the enclosure in a quiet, draft free location where the ambient temperature is roughly 75°F - 80°F. It can be slightly cooler, but it must not be colder than 70°F.
- Ensure that your sugar glider can easily access the food bowls and water bottle.
- Hang sleeping pouches, condos, vines, etc. throughout the enclosure as desired.
- Place the sugar glider wheel on the floor of the enclosure where desired.

FOOD & WATER:

- Feed daily, as much as the sugar glider will eat. Taronga Zoo diet, plus a wide variety of insects should form the foundation of the diet. Always keep in mind that Taronga Zoo diet contains raw meat. As such, it must remain refrigerated so that it does not spoil, and it must be used completely within 3 days of thawing. These include, but are not limited to, soft bodied feeders such as butterworms, earthworms, hornworms, phoenixworms, silkworms, and waxworms, as well as hard bodied feeders such as cockroaches, crickets, mealworms; including their pupae and beetles, and superworms; including their pupae and beetles. You can also offer fresh fruit & vegetables, yogurt, honey, maple syrup, and animal protein such as frozen-thawed pinky mice and/or pinky rats.
- Clean drinking water must always be available.
- Handfeeding is a great way to build trust and ensure a strong bond with your sugar glider, so make it a priority.



This is the amount of food that we offer to a typical (breeding) colony of Sugar gliders. Ensure that you prepare it exactly as shown to avoid issues with moisture killing the live insects. We alternate between yogurt (ours all prefer Activia over every other brand) and Taronga Zoo diet (pictured above: looks like brown baby food) each night, and we offer the same amount of Taronga Zoo diet as we do yogurt. We offer different live and frozen insects each night, but we offer both live and frozen insects each night, in similarly sized portions. Use live, 3/4 inch or larger crickets as a treat for handfeeding and/or bonding. We offer both frozen mixed vegetables and fresh or frozen fruit each night.

BONDING:

- Be sure to carry your sugar glider around with you in a bonding pouch or safe pocket as much as possible. Your sugar glider must associate your scent and voice with comfort and security for bonding to be successful.
- It is absolutely critical that you never end your interactions with your Sugar glider on a negative. Always ensure that your Sugar glider is calm and happy before you put him or her in their enclosure.
- The process of weaning and going to a new home can be very stressful for Sugar glider joeys, so you must ensure that you are patient and relaxed when you first interact with them. Sugar glider joeys can be nippy and/or crabby when they are stressed, but it will pass with time and trust. You must remember that their entire world has been turned upside down, so you must be patient and you must be willing to let them bond at their own pace. **Never force handling or interactions unless it is medically necessary to do so.** Just as you go through periods of stress and irritability, so do animals, and forcing interactions will only serve to undermine any progress that you have made with respect to bonding and building trust.

Caring for your sugar glider properly requires that you provide suitable temperatures, proper nutrition, clean water, a safe and secure enclosure/environment, and lots of daily attention to build and maintain trust. If you cannot or will not provide these things, a Sugar glider is definitely not the right pet for you.