

Caring for your

# Sugar Glider



**life span** 6-8 years

## diet

- Free-ranging gliders feed on insects, larvae, arachnids, and small vertebrates during most of the year, as well as sap, blossoms, and nectar during the winter wet season. There are a number of captive diets recommended for gliders.
- The diet should be 75% protein (grasshoppers, crickets, mealworms, butterflies, moths, lean chicken, egg, yogurt) and 25% fresh fruits and vegetables.

## housing

- Sugar gliders are highly social animals that normally live in groups of 5-12. These groups are exclusive and territorial, and introduced gliders may be attacked. If possible, keep in groups of 2 or more.
- Solitary gliders require at least 1-2 hours of human attention daily.
- Provide as large a cage as possible such as a tall aviary wire cage. Wire spacing should be no more than 1.0 x 0.5 in (2.5 x 1.3 cm). Cage furniture should include items for visual security (i.e. hide box, sleeping pouch) as well as exercise and enrichment (i.e. branches, shelves, solid running wheel, swings, and bird toys). Provide supplemental heat during the winter months.

## restraint

- Grasp the head between the thumb and middle finger.
- Scruff
- Restrain through a small cotton bag or pouch

## healthcare

Signs your sugar glider may need veterinary attention: prolonged sleeping up to 16 hours a day, reluctance to come out of the nest box, refusal to climb or explore the enclosure, poor appetite, weakness or dragging of hind limbs, increased breathing rates, seizures, thin body condition, distended abdomen, loose stools, white spots in the eyes, discharge from eyes, nose, ears or genital area, or frequent scratching.