

# Evergreen Avian & Exotic Animal Hospital

Holly G. Carter, BVetMed

12930 NE 125h Way, Ste B130, Kirkland, WA 98034

Ph: 425-821-6165

Toll Free: 1-888-821-6165

Fax: 425-821-6130

www.exopet.com

## Diet and Care Recommendations for Sugar Gliders

-Cathy A. Johnson-Delaney, DVM

### General Information:

Sugar Gliders are marsupial animals native to the rainforests and coastal forests of New Guinea and Australia. They are nocturnal, arboreal, and live in social groups consisting of up to six adults and young. Therefore, as pets, they should not be kept as solitary animals. Females reach sexual maturity at 8 months to 1 year of age, males at 12-14 months of age. Gestation is 16 days, after which the young migrate to the pouch (two offspring are common). They spend approximately 70 days in the pouch and become independent after 17 weeks. The lifespan of Sugar Gliders in the wild is 7-8 years; up to 12-14 in captivity.

### Diet

In the wild, the diet consists of the sap of trees, nectar and drippings from native flowers and leaves, and insects. Fruit, foliage, and nuts are NOT part of their diet, although they may like these items if offered. Recommended diet below. It should consist of 50% gum/nectar/sap and 50% insectivore/carnivore.

#### 1. Leadbeater's Mix: Gum/Nectar/Sap Component (50% of total diet, feed in evening)

##### *1 glider portion:*

5 TBS warm water 2 TBS high protein baby cereal

5 TBS honey

¼-1/2 tsp vitamin/mineral supplement (Vionate recommended) and ¼ tsp calcium gluconate USP

1 shelled, boiled egg

##### *Directions:*

Mix warm water and honey. In separate container, blend egg until homogenized. Gradually add water and honey, then vitamin powder, then baby cereal, blending after each addition until smooth. Keep refrigerated. Recipe can be increased and multiple portions frozen in an ice cube tray and thawed when needed.

#### 2. Insectivore/Carnivore Component (50% of total diet):

Commercial foods recommended: Insectivore Diet, Reliable Protein Products available here or Hedgehog Diet, Pretty Pets International 1-800-356-5020 OR Mazuri Sugar Glider

#### 3. Treats (no more than 5-10% of daily intake, approximately 1 tsp per glider):

Fruit, various, chopped. Live food recommended: crickets, large and small mealworms, waxworms, or a variety of insects. Limit larval insects to 3-5 per glider (small mealworms) 2-3 X a week. Feed adult insects, king mealworms, and waxworms Insectivore Diet sprinkled with calcium gluconate USP for at least 24 hours prior to feeding the insect to the sugar glider. Gum Arabic can be purchased via the internet as a powder and mixed with fruit juice instead of plain water into a pasty-gum like consistency. It can be packed holes drilled into branches, mealworms or treats stuck in it. This gum is very similar to acacia gum gliders utilize in the wild.

### Habitat:

The cage should contain lots of branches for climbing since gliders are primarily arboreal. For bedding, we recommend Carefresh. Heat should be supplied to one section: Daytime temperature in the habitat should be between 85-90°F; nest box available. If temperatures of room drop below 68-66°F for extended periods of time, then heat is needed for the nest box as well. We recommend 12 hours light, 12 hours dark.