

Sugar Glider at a Glance

Difficulty of care: **Advanced**

Average lifespan: **12–15 years with proper care; occasionally up to 18 years**

Average adult size: **4–5 ounces**

Diet: **Omnivorous**

Minimum habitat size: **24" x 36" x 48"**

Temperature: **70–80 F**

Fun fact They can glide up to 148 feet and catch moths in mid-flight.

Enclosure Setup & Maintenance

- Sugar gliders need a tall, well-ventilated wire cage with bars no more than ½ inch apart. Never use a glass or plastic aquarium. Keep the cage away from direct sunlight, drafts, kitchens, and strong smells or fumes, with humidity at 40–50%.
- Use shredded paper or paper pellet bedding and spot-clean it daily. Provide sleeping pouches, nest boxes, branches, perches, and shelves at different heights. Add foraging and puzzle toys and an exercise wheel with a solid back and no center bar. Use a secure lock because sugar gliders are skilled escape artists.

Supply Checklist

- Tall wire cage with secure lock
- Bedding and sleeping pouches
- Nest boxes, branches, perches, and shelves
- Solid-back exercise wheel
- Foraging and puzzle toys
- Bonding pouch
- Sugar glider pellets and fresh produce
- Protein sources and calcium-based multivitamin
- Water bottles
- Travel carrier and nail trimmers

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Fun fact They have opposable thumbs and four fingers on their hands and feet.

Health

Healthy sugar gliders are alert, active, and inquisitive, with clear eyes and thick, full fur. Monitor their weight, fur, droppings, appetite, and activity daily because illness can worsen quickly. Warning signs include appetite loss, breathing problems, lethargy during active hours, dragging the hind legs, wounds, self-inflicted injuries, dull fur, or closed eyes.

Schedule annual wellness exams with an exotic animal veterinarian and seek same-day veterinary care for signs of a medical emergency.

Fun fact When angry, they may lean back and make a chattering sound like a small, yapping dog.

Diet

Sugar gliders need a carefully balanced diet. One option is 75% commercially prepared glider pellets and 25% fresh produce daily, with a calcium-based multivitamin every other day. Feed them in the evening and provide clean, fresh water at all times.

Safe foods include leafy greens, mango, papaya, blueberries, plain yogurt, scrambled eggs, cooked chicken, mealworms, and crickets. Wash fresh produce to remove pesticide residue.

Never feed chocolate, garlic, onions, canned fruit, peanuts, corn, moldy food, or foods high in fat or salt.



Fun fact Wild sugar gliders live in colonies of 20–40, and pets must have a companion.