

CARE OF SUGAR GLIDERS

HOUSING: Cage designed specifically for sugar gliders, with diagonally and vertically placed branches to simulate an arboreal environment. Very large cages are necessary-we know of owners who have placed mesh fronts and screen doors on closets. These are highly nocturnal animals and should not be worn in fleece pouches around the owner's neck all day. They are also highly social and should be housed in pairs or groups.

SUBSTRATE: Cedar and pine shavings have been found to cause liver damage and irritation to the respiratory tract of small mammals. Aspen shavings or recycled paper products are suitable for lining the cage floor, but newspaper tends to be neater and more economical.

FEEDING: There is no such thing as an easy diet for sugar gliders. Most medical problems we see are a direct result of a dietary deficiency. There are several diet options recommended by exotic mammal veterinarians: these may be found at www.ZEN-Inc.com.

VETERINARY CARE: We recommend a wellness exam at the time of purchase/adoption, then exams every six months. Bloodwork should be done sometime in the first two to three years of age to obtain a normal database, then annually from the age of six to screen for the development of age-related diseases. Males should be neutered to prevent aggression-neutering young males before the scent glands fully develop will prevent them from becoming quite stinky. Always contact your glider's veterinarian with questions and concerns-this is a better source for information than pet stores or the internet.