



## ***What is a Sugar Glider?***

The Sugar Glider is a marsupial that is around 5 to 7 inches in length, with a tail almost as long as the body. The most distinctive features of its anatomy are the twin skin membranes called patagium, which extend from the fifth finger of the forelimb back to the first toe of the hind foot. Sugar gliders use this membrane to glide.



Being marsupials, sugar gliders have pouches like a kangaroo. The females are pregnant for approximately 16 days, at which time the babies, called joeys, crawl to the pouch where they will stay for about 2 months. The joeys latch on to one of four nipples and nurse until they are mature enough to emerge from the pouch. Joeys nurse for approximately 6 to 8 weeks until they are weaned. The dad participates in raising the joeys.

Sugar gliders are typically grey with a rich cream-colored underbelly, and have a dark stripe running down the length of their bodies. Their tails are fluffy to help them balance while they move around. Ears are large with little to no hair. They have large eyes positioned on the sides of their heads for a wide field of vision and, being nocturnal, are able to see in the dark. Other color variations exist, such as White Face, Cinnamon, Leucistic, Platinum, Lion, Creamino, and Mosaic.



Sugar gliders are colony animals. They should not be housed alone; they should always have a cage mate. If you have a male and female, the male should be neutered to avoid unwanted joeys. Two neutered males or two females may be caged together.

Sugar gliders need a balanced diet. There are several recommended diets to follow. All approved diets should include a staple food with fresh water, fresh fruits, and fresh vegetables as directed. Most items for glider diets can be purchased from a grocery store or online. Cat food is not recommended to ever be fed to a sugar glider.

