**Sugar Glider**

**Native to:** Australia, New Guinea, Indonesia

**Predators:** owls, kookaburras, snakes, feral cats

**Prey:** insects, gum, sap, nectar, lizards, small birds, eggs, fruits

**Facts:**

* Arboreal
* Nocturnal
* Marsupial- have a pouch to carry their young
* Sugar refers to their preference for nectar and sugary fruits
* Glider refers to their ability to glide through the air to reach food, or escape predators.
* Gliding occurs due to small membrane that stretches from their front to hind legs
* Seek shelter during the day in twig lined tree hollows
* Ears can swivel to help them locate prey in the dark
* Eyes are set far apart to help them calculate distance of their jumps
* They have a weakly prehensile tail
* Can tolerate extreme heat by licking parts of their bodies to cool them down
* Huddle up to keep body heat when it is cold
* Territory is marked by glands on the head and chest, which also helps establish a ranking system
* They usually live in small family groups of 5-7

**Defense Mechanisms:**

* Ability to jump and glide to escape predators

**Reproduction:**

* females have 2 uteruses so they can go into heat 2x/year
* males have a bifurcated penis to correspond with the 2 euteruses
* give birth to 2-3 joeys per litter, and they stay in the mother’s pouch for about 3 months until their eyes are open
* Males are very involved caretakers for their joeys

**Lifespan:** 12-18 years

**Handling Tips:**

Should be kept in the hammock for transport, and the handler can peel back the covering to show her when she is being presented. Gloves are recommended due to her tendency to bite.