

5. Give them security in their nest and neighbourhood



Cats are sugar gliders main predator. Please keep your cats in at night-time and/ or consider a cat run.

At 7–10 months, sugar gliders leave the nest to find their own territory. It is then that they are at extreme risk from predators: mainly cats, but also dogs and foxes. In the wild, owls are their natural predators.

6. Feed your glider well

Gliders love gum tree blossom, yellow box flowers, nectar and sap. They also enjoy caterpillars, beetles and spiders (Sugar gliders do not eat rose petals or vegies). Offer a more diverse menu for your gliders, by planting wattle and native shrubs such as Kunzea leptospermoides, Bursaria spinosa, Melicytus dentatus, Acacia pycnantha, Acacia acinacea, Acacia mearnsii, Allocasuarina verticillata.

See Banyule Council about their great native plant vouchers.

7. Airbnb in the trees

Sugar Gliders are very social animals living in family groups, of up to six or seven adults, and the current season's young. They share the nest, defend their territory and groom each other. This social grooming helps improve their hygiene and health and helps to bond the group and establish the group's identity.



YOUR GUIDE TO LIVING WITH *sugar gliders* IN THE URBAN FRINGE

For more information visit the transitionmonty.org website
or email us on montysugargliders@gmail.com

Produced by Wendy Hames and Jane Oldfield, with input from
Richard Francis, ABZECO, January, 2015



1. Move into the right neighbourhood

Sugar gliders live their entire lives in trees. They rarely come down to earth.

The right sugar glider neighbourhood has lots of native trees, which they can glide between looking for food.

So to attract a glider, first check you have sufficient tree canopy in your street and back yard.

As well as this, native shrubs, groundcovers and grasses attract insects and promote beneficial microbial activity in soils, contributing to biodiversity health and wider habitat values.

If you don't have enough tree canopy, you might consider planting local native tree species to encourage gliders to visit.

CHECK OUT THIS GREAT VIDEO LINK:

<http://www.arkive.org/sugar-glider/petaurus-breviceps/video-08b.html>

2. Make the perfect home



There is currently a housing shortage for gliders in Montmorency!

A native tree takes about 110 years to develop suitable hollows and more and more of our old trees are being removed and not replaced.

The good news is that this creates an opportunity for us to attract sugar gliders to our gardens.

You can make or purchase a glider home. Monty Biodiversity Group are selling sugar glider nesting boxes for \$34 each (contact details on front page).

Install your box five or more metres from the ground, protected from hot sun by facing south-east or in mostly shade.

3. Go minimalist

(forget Antique or Victorian or Art Deco) Put ~3 cm mulch in the bottom of the box and then fill it with fresh, loosely packed, thin fresh branches with green eucalyptus leaves. Doing this will help to discourage bees.



4. If you want to see them, make an appointment

Sugar gliders are highly sensitive to light, waking and moving out when their body clock tells them to. This adjusts daily by a few minutes, as nights become shorter or longer. They are very habitual so get to know their schedule.

Go outside just before dusk, and wait with the box in clear view. They usually emerge just before dark. One will emerge, then another, and maybe more. They may chatter a bit. Enjoy their spectacular gliding and their presence in your world.

