The SUGAR Group

Report of 2013 research activities

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In 2013 the SUGAR Group celebrated our 5th full year of data collection.

This allows us to compare 5 years of data in some cases. This is important for the future, as a decade into this type of research we will more fully understand if the things we are seeing are patterns, cycles or isolated events.

**GENERAL STATISTICS**

One of the SUGAR Group’s goals upon the start of data collection was to collect basic data regarding the population of gliders living in captivity.

***Average number of gliders in home:***

**2009** **2010** **2011 2012 2013**

6.0 10.9 9.6 8.38 9.29

Of those gliders, the breakdown for sex and neutering was as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2009** | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** |
| **Female** | 49% | 49.5% | 47% | 47% | 45% |
| **Male** | 51% | 50.5% | 53% | 53% | 55% |
| **% of males neutered** | 65% | 72% | 81% | 78% | 79% |

***Percent of joeys rejected:***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2009** | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** |
| 11% | 6.0% | 4.4% | 9.0% | 12% |

\* Will be investigating the potential causes of increase

**Data related to the color of gliders in homes**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2009** | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** |
| **Standard Gray** | 62% | 69% | 51% | 53% | 54.5% |
| **White Face** | 24% | 20% | 16% | 18% | 13% |
| **Black Beauty** | 6% | 6% | 6.5% | 07% | 04% |
| **Leucistic** | 2.5% | 1.7% | 6.5% | 06% | 07% |
| **Mosaic** | 2% | 2% | 15% | 13% | 14% |
| **Lion** | 0.8% | 0.9% | 2.6% | WT, Lion &Cremino | 0.4% |
| **White Tip** | 0 | 0 | 1.3% | 1% of total | 1.3% |
| **Cremino** | 0 | 0 | 0.6% | --------------- | 0.9% |
| **Platinum** | 0 | 0 | 0.6% | 02% | 03% |
| **Other** | 2% | .5% | 0 | 0.3% | 0.9% |
| **% that are also hets** | n/a | 2.1% | 15% | 08% | 14% |

***Diet Information***

**Most Popular diet plans:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Diet** | **2012** | **2013** |
| HPW Complete | 21% | 14% |
| Original HPW | 18% | 21% |
| Bourbon’s Modified (BML) | 17% | 19.5% |
| Priscilla’s Pet Glider Diet | 8% | 12% |
| Val’s Green Variety Diet | 7% | 6% |
| Lucky Glider Rescue Soup | 6% | 8.3% |
| Candy’s Blended Diet | 3% | 2.2% |
| “Other” | 9% | 14% |
| HPW Plus | 6% | 6% |
| Australian Wombaroo Diet | 0.5 % | 0.7% |
| Glider Grub | 3% | 4.5% |

**Percent of people who say they do NOT modify the diet plan as written = 47%**

**Factors which influence diet selection:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Factor** | **2013** |
|  |  |
| Nutritional Value | 69% |
| Ingredient Availability | 49% |
| Research | 42% |
| Palatability to gliders | 39% |
| Ease of Storage | 37% |
| Recommendation of others | 35.5% |
| Ease of Preparation | 32% |
| Recommendation of breeder | 32% |
| Organic Ingredients | 32% |
| Cost | 30.5% |
| Ratio is balanced | 30.5 |
| Online Review | 27% |
| Reputation of creator | 27% |
| Length of time diet has been available | 22% |
| Preparation Time | 18.6% |
| “other” | 17% |
| Mimics Natural diet | 13.5% |
| Sold at time of purchase | 12% |
| Friends feed the diet | 07% |
| Smell | 07% |

**Most common changes noted after switching diets:**

Positive weight change, improved fur condition, increased activity & improved appetite

***Incidence report (major issues only)***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Condition*** | ***2009*** | ***2010*** | ***2011*** | ***2012*** | ***Notes*** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **# gliders represented in sample** | 597 | 329 | 1101 | 873 |  |
| **% breeding** | 16% | 19% | 13% | 11% |  |
| **“Mating” wound** | 2.4% | 3.6% | 0.7% | 01% | \* |
| **Open wound (not mating)** | 2.4% | 2.0% | 2.0% | 02% |  |
| **Facial abscess without tooth involvement** | 1.5% | 3.6% | 1.5% | 1.8% | \* |
| **Seizure** | 5.2% | 8.2% | 1.7% | 3.8% | Includes death seizures \* |
| **Obesity** | 7.3% | 5.5% | 5.5% | 2.7% |  |
| **Dehydration** | 4.9% | 3.0% | 1.7% | 1.1% |  |
| **Death** | n/a | 5.2% | 7.0% | 04% | (Means that this percent of the total above passed away) |
| **Constipation** | 1.5% | 1.9% | 1.5% | 01% | \* |
| **Parasites** | 9.9% | 1.0% | 1.8% | 1.8% |  |
| **UTI** | ---- | ---- | 1.2% | 1.1% |  |
| **Tail injury** | ---- | ---- | 1.0% | 1.7% |  |
| **Broken Bone** | ---- | ---- | ---- | 1.5% |  |

*\* = TSG is closely monitoring and/or creating surveys/studies to gather more data*

***Weight Data***

We continue to track in order to provide an up-to-date statistical report for captive gliders

Our data base has over 2,000 weights from the last 5 years.

Range for “normal” means that approx. 85% of all weights fell into this range

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **# of weights added last year** | **Average Weight** | **Range of “normal”** |
|  |  |  |  |
| Adult Male (9+ months) | 432 | 115.4 grams | 74 – 141 grams |
| Adult Female (9+ months) | 438 | 101.4 grams | 61 – 130 grams |
| Juvenile Male (8 weeks – 9 months) | 33 | 67 grams | ------ |
| Juvenile Female (8 wks – 9 months) | 37 | 61.9 grams | ------ |

***Sources of weight data:***

* Wellness exam forms
* Weigh –ins
* Primary statistics surveys
* Necropsy surveys and reports

***Fun facts***

***Average length of time respondents had owned gliders***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
| 1 yr. 7 mos. | 2 yr. 5 mos. | N/A | 4 yr. 3 mos | 6 yr. 5 mos. |