

Sweet Little Gliders

A GREEN HEROES RESCUE STORY



Hello! 🌿

My name is Manuka

And I am a young sugar glider. This is the story of how my sister Maple and I were rescued and came to live with Oliver, who is a wildlife carer.





Late one evening, Maple and I were out hunting with our mother. We were very small joeys back then, and our eyes were still closed. Suddenly, a large cat sprang out of the darkness and began to chase us.

Mother left us in a safe place before escaping into the trees... but sadly, we never felt her beside us again.

Maple and I hid under a picnic table next to a noisy road. It was very scary! We felt cold during the night, so we cuddled each other to stay warm.

Luckily, some kind travellers found us when they stopped to rest. They gently scooped us into a soft towel and called the local wildlife group for advice.



My sister and I were delivered to Oliver's home. Oliver knew exactly what we needed to keep our tummies full and our bodies warm. He even had a small fabric pouch for us.



It wasn't as cosy as our mother's pouch, but it was very snug. The next day, Maple opened her eyes and whispered to me that Oliver looked very friendly.



At first we spent most of our time sleeping inside an incubator, which is a special machine for keeping very young animals warm while they are growing and developing. Every four hours, Oliver carefully lifted Maple and I out of the incubator and gave us some warm sugar glider milk. In just one week, we grew from 22grams to 40grams!



Within a few more weeks, we were strong enough to move from the incubator to a large enclosure in Oliver's garden. Maple and I soon started to become more adventurous and have fun playing together.

There were branches to climb and delicious foods to eat, like eucalyptus leaves, flowers, insects and mealworms (my favourite!). Do you like to climb trees and eat mealworms?





One day, I was out exploring when I fell off a small branch and scratched my eye. Maple was so worried about me! Oliver took me to a wildlife hospital for a check-up. Thankfully, the vet said that it wasn't a deep scratch and I just needed eye drops for a few days. When I returned, my sister was so happy that she covered me with kisses.

Did you know that sugar gliders are nocturnal creatures and that we need good vision to help us glide safely from treetop to treetop?

Maple and I are now almost fully grown. We sleep during the day curled up together in our special tree hollow. We spend most of the night practising our gliding skills as we go searching around our enclosure for the lovely food Oliver brings for us.

Our grey coats are much longer and thicker now. Have you noticed the black stripes from our noses to midway along our backs? I think they look lovely, don't you?



Sugar gliders like to eat small grubs, tree sap and sweet native flowers. If you have gliders or possums in your backyard, please don't feed them fruit as they can become very sick.



Instead, why not plant some native flowers and trees? Our little friends will love you for it! You can also help to keep us safe by ensuring pet cats and dogs remain inside, particularly at night.



We can hardly wait!

MY SISTER AND I ARE SO HAPPY TO
HAVE BEEN RESCUED AND CARED FOR
BY OLIVER. IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE
WE ARE READY FOR RELEASE. SOMETIMES
WE SNIFF THE AIR AND TRY TO IMAGINE
WHAT WE WILL DISCOVER IN THE WILD.



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