

Enclosure

African Pygmy Dormice enclosures should be a large vivarium, as they are arboreal; it is suggested no smaller than a 20 gallon tank (the larger the better) for a small colony. Other options are Repti-breeze chameleon enclosure & Exo-terra terrarium. Dormice are extremely active and need plenty of climbing material, natural enrichment such as branches and logs, as well as plenty of hides and nesting sites (1 per Dormouse). Branches taken straight from woods (Avoid Roadside collecting). Trim the dry branches to size, be sure to use good quality woods for your Dormouse setup. Before use, 1st place them in the oven for around 20 minutes to remove any parasites to make sure they're safe for rodent use. A Dormouse setup will need as many nest boxes as animals in your habitat, to reduce territorial disputes for dominance. Amazon sells many nesting box options with small entrances-holes and multi-chambered, as well as suspended hollowed out coconuts which are favored by keepers. However, do bear in mind that there will be occasions when you may need access to these nests in order to clean them or access babies; especially for a new pair or new colony or an inexperienced owner. The hides will also aid in territorial disputes that occur in larger colonies. It needs to be kept at a minimum temperature of 70°F and up to 80° to prevent them entering a state of torpor. Also, be sure to note that the tank lid should be secure, as Dormice can be escape artists at times. There are No known issues using screen enclosures; they don't seem to chew it, but they do love running all over it. A solid plastic or wooden wheel is great for exercise and a necessity. As for the substrate, I recommend the snake Aspen shaving bedding, as it is low dust and moldable for nesting material. I always recommend to mite treat all wood shaving bedding to avoid issues or mite outbreaks. 'Sevin dust (food grade)' is recommended and safe; you can also use pure Diatomaceous earth. Lightly dust the bottom of the enclosure and place the shavings over and mix together. Alternative substrates would be the recycled paper bedding, coconut husk or regular Aspen shavings. AVOID using Pine, Cedar or bedding with color dyes, as these can cause respiratory issues.

Wood prepping Guidance link,

<https://letslovechinchillas.weebly.com/processing-wood.html>

Safe wood & chews

<https://letslovechinchillas.weebly.com/safe-wood--chews.html>

Safe Plants, Flowers & Trees

file:///Users/matthewfox/Downloads/moondance_sugar_glider_plant-tree_information%20%20(1).htm

(Jaime Marie - Author - "I have used this list of 'safe plants, flowers and trees' safely for 3 years, and recommend sticking to green recommendations.")