African Pygmy Dormice

Reference Guide

African Pygmy Dormice APD (Graphiurus Murinus) are nocturnal and measure around 5 -6 inches including tail. They are most active at dusk and dawn. They are also known as Microsquirrels, African Dwarf Dormice, Woodland Dormouse, and sometimes Egyptian Dormouse. African Pygmy Dormice belong to the family Gliridae and are closely related to rats and mice. Unlike mice, Dormice have fur on the insides of their ears and on their bushy tails, which may be due to the need to conserve heat during hibernation. They are colony animals and must be kept with company of their own kind, although like many rodents territory disputes can and will happen from time to time; hence the need for several hides in the enclosure. They make a variety of chirping and bird-like sounds. African Pygmy Dormice should NEVER be kept alone, but only in pairs or colonies, pairs may be shyer and less active than a larger colony. African dormice average 4-6 years of age, but have been reported to live up to 8 years in captivity.

African Pygmy Dormice are exotic rodents that are relatively new to the pet trade here in the USA, so they can have a high price tag; ranging from $150 - $1000 depending on breeder, location and color morph. The best place to start searching for a quality breeder is here at The American Dormouse Association or if you are out of the USA, perhaps another group or forum more local to you. You can always ask on exotics forums and groups for recommendations of a good private breeder. Private breeders are likely to have more knowledge than your average pet shop, and you do not run the risk of supporting rodent mills. The Dormouse has several special needs when it comes to the enclosure, diet and husbandry. Dormice are NOT a good option for young children under 12. The Dormouse needs extra work to be handleable and may not tame completely or quickly. Health needs can be complicated and may need specialized vets. Initial cage costs are high diet and enrichment can be expensive.