

# GLIDERS GOTTA GLIDE

Written by Bel Richardson



### **Why is phonics important to learn?**

The English language seems like it is full of a lot of crazy pronunciations and spelling. While a small amount of English must be rote learned due to exceptions from rules, much of it can be decoded using phonics. When you know phonics, you are like a detective following clues to solve a mystery. In this series, we use only words that your little reader will be able to break down into standard phonemes. This will build reading confidence while strengthening their phonics foundation.

### **Is this the right level for my little reader?**

If your reader can decode about 90% of the words in this book independently, this will be an appropriate platform to begin their study of phonics. By understanding a majority of the words, a reader can use context to decode new terms. If a reader breezes through, you might need to take them up another level. If this level is still a bit too tricky for them, get your reader to try some of the earlier levels first. Challenges can be good, but too much too quickly could overwhelm your reader. Take things slow and steady. Enjoy the books and the journey together!

### **How can I be a good learning buddy for my reader?**

If you are helping somebody to read this book, there are plenty of ways that you can go about it. Do the initial exercises together before you begin to read so that you have both experienced the isolated sounds and discussed them. If the reader gets stuck, cover up all but the first phoneme in the word so that the sound can be isolated again. Slowly move along and reveal more phonemes. Once they can say each individual part of the word, you can focus on blending. Say the words so that they can hear them, and get them to repeat it out aloud several times. To consolidate knowledge after you finish a page, talk about what happened and what is in the picture. Then, try saying some of the words on the page and see if the reader can identify them. Get the reader doing this as well, saying words which you need to find. Above all, you should be patient. Create a safe place to make mistakes so that the reader is willing to give things a go.

### **Special Words**

This book has some special words that you should take your reader through before you begin. Many special words are those that we use in day-to-day conversation. Unfortunately, a lot of their phonetic structures do not conform to rules that your reader has learned. These words can be frustrating and confusing, but they are also a part of natural reading, writing, and conversation.

**sugar, the, Australia, to, Tasmania, Papua New Guinea, of, some, no, Stefan,  
they, wild, go, do, boxes, when, be, into, maybe**

Say each word to your reader a few times so that they can get used to its sound. Get them to repeat it back to you. Afterwards, see if your reader can think of any words that rhyme with this sound in order to help lock in how to pronounce it. Finally, think of some basic sentences that use this word. For example, if the word is 'the' you can create basic sentences with a subject, verb, and object: "The hat is on the table."



This is a sugar glider!

Take a look at the map. Sugar gliders live all down the east coast of Australia. We took gliders to Tasmania as well. Gliders also live in the country to the top of Australia and Papua New Guinea.





Stefan is a man that looks after little gliders. Some little gliders have no mum or dad.

If gliders do not have a mum and dad, they are in danger. These gliders need help to grow up strong. Good thing these gliders have Stefan.



In the wild, little gliders watch mum and dad. They get the hang of gliding while mum and dad look after them.

Animals can get at glider mums and dads. Gliders can have homes taken away. It is not safe for little gliders that cannot glide.

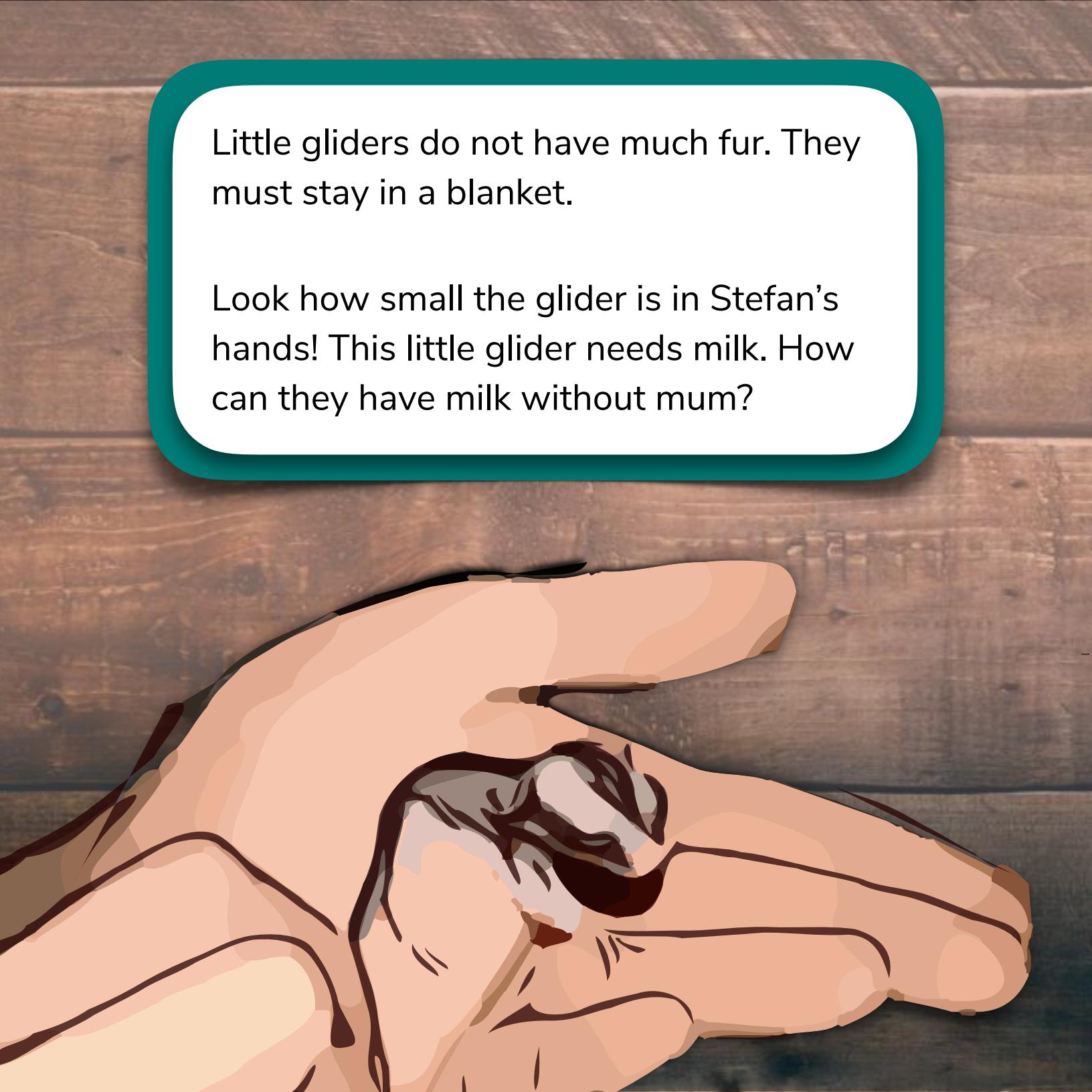




If children or adults see a glider with no mum or dad, they can make a call. The glider will get care and then go to live with Stefan.

He will make a gym for the gliders. He gives them good food and a safe place to glide.





Little gliders do not have much fur. They must stay in a blanket.

Look how small the glider is in Stefan's hands! This little glider needs milk. How can they have milk without mum?







This glider will try to glide.

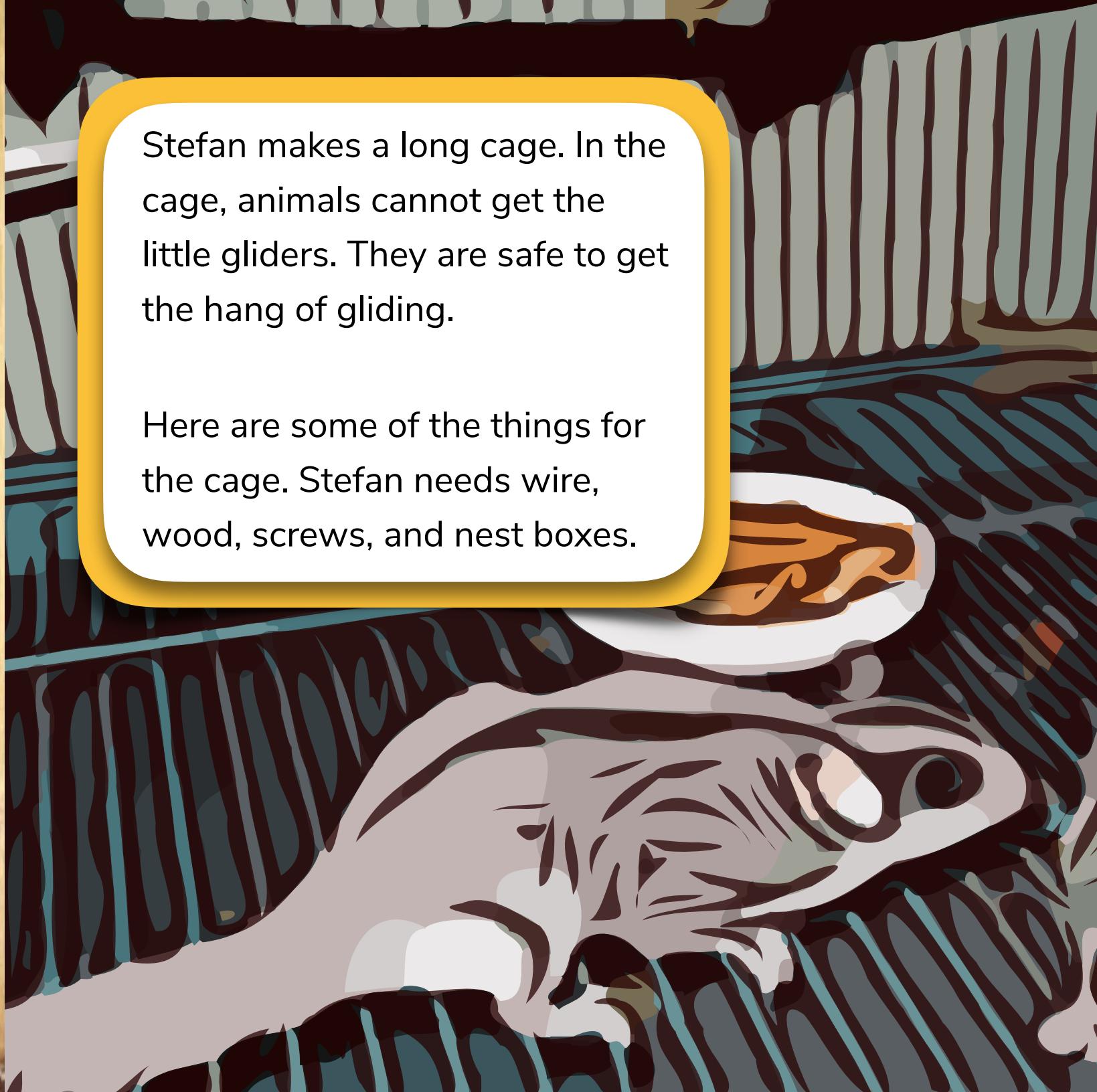
In the wild, the glider must get up a tree quickly to run away from animals. It must know which food is good to eat.

The glider must get from branch to branch.



Stefan makes a long cage. In the cage, animals cannot get the little gliders. They are safe to get the hang of gliding.

Here are some of the things for the cage. Stefan needs wire, wood, screws, and nest boxes.

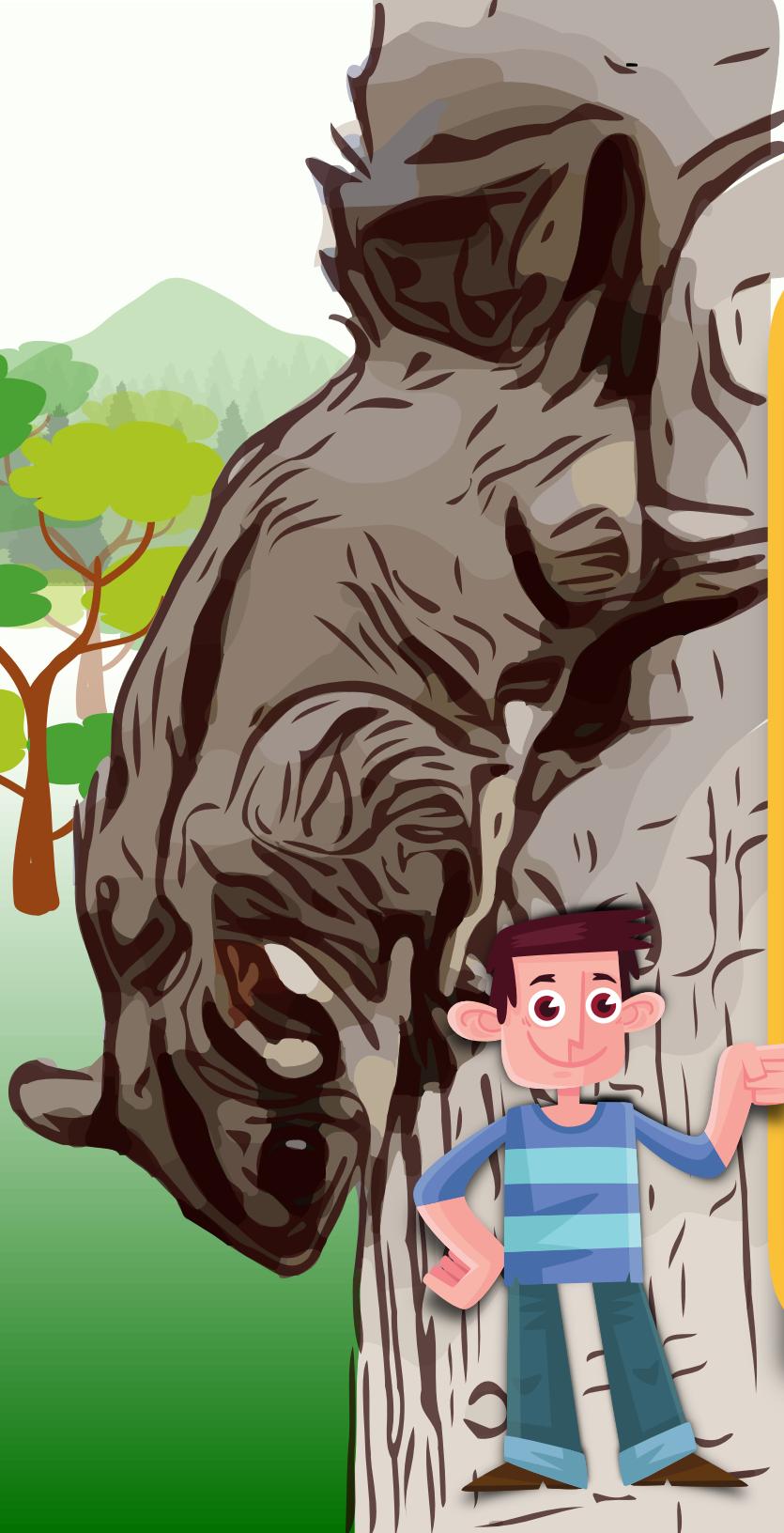




When the gliders are strong and know how to glide, it will be time for them to go back into the wild.

Thanks to Stefan, these gliders know all that they need.

They are cute, but he must let them go.  
Sugar gliders belong in the wild.



A sugar glider that cannot glide will not live long in the wild.

But with a little care and a safe gym to glide in, these gliders will have the best chance that they can get!

Maybe these sugar gliders will have some little gliders, and teach them how to glide?

fish gotta swim, birds gotta fly  
and ...

*gliders gotta glide!*



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