



## Softbill Gel Diet for Iron-Sensitive Birds

Mazuri® Softbill Gel Diet is designed for adult, iron-sensitive birds – ideal for toucans, aracaris, turacos, starlings, birds of paradise, mynahs, and other softbills. Each batch of Mazuri® Softbill Diet is analyzed for iron, and the analyzed iron concentration is made available to all customers at [www.mazuri.com](http://www.mazuri.com). This diet is shipped as a powder that is designed to be made into a gel prior to feeding.

### Features and Benefits

- **Ph.D.-formulated nutrition** – Designed specifically for iron-sensitive birds.
- **Each batch is carefully analyzed to ensure appropriate iron levels.** Analysis is available on [www.mazuri.com](http://www.mazuri.com).
- **Antioxidant-rich formula** – Supports overall health.
- **Formulated to allow for supplementation with fruits or other food items, if desired.**
- **Flavored with fruit** – Made with apples and prunes, with natural pineapple flavoring to encourage palatability.
- **Soft, wet gel** – Highly palatable; can be cut to the desired size and shape. Wet gel resembles ripe fruit in texture.
- **No added artificial flavors.**

### Product Form & Packaging

Catalog #0022722 | Dry Powder | Order by the kg.

### Guaranteed Analysis (dry analysis)

Crude protein not less than .....	20.00%	Moisture not more than.....	12.00%
Crude fat not less than .....	7.50%	Ash not more than .....	8.90%
Crude fiber not more than.....	4.00%	Iron not more than.....	125 ppm

### Ingredients

Wheat Flour, Gelatin, Wheat Germ, Corn Gluten Meal, Soybean Oil, Casein, Dicalcium Phosphate, Sucrose, Brewers Dried Yeast, Locust Bean Gum, Corn Oil, Carrageenan, Calcium Carbonate, Dried Egg Product, Soy Protein Isolate, Potassium Chloride, Cellulose, Lecithin, Safflower Oil, Wheat Red Dog, Calcium Propionate (a Preservative), Salt, Choline Chloride, Zinc Amino Acid Complex, Manganese Amino Acid Complex, Preserved with Mixed Tocopherols, Citric Acid (a Preservative), Nicotinic Acid, Vitamin E Supplement, Calcium Pantothenate, Menadione Sodium Bisulfite Complex (Vitamin K), Basic Copper Chloride, Pyridoxine Hydrochloride, Thiamine Mononitrate, Riboflavin-5-Phosphate, Folic Acid, Vitamin A Acetate, Cobalt Carbonate, Rosemary Extract, Potassium Iodate, Biotin, Vitamin B12 Supplement, Cholecalciferol (Vitamin D3).

### Feeding Directions

NEVER FEED DRY PRODUCT.

- Combine, by weight, 80% boiling water and 20% Mazuri® gel powder. Adjust ratios to desired texture and need.
  - Mix fully, pour into shallow pan. Refrigerate overnight or until firm. Cut to desired size and feed.
- **Provide gel product as at least 75% of the bird's dry matter intake** (approximately 80% of the total diet). If desired, it may be fed in conjunction with the dry, extruded Mazuri® Softbill Diet.
- **Fresh fruits, vegetables, or other enrichment food items** may be provided, but as no more than 20% of the total diet.
  - Avoid feeding bananas because they are high in calories and dry matter content. Avoid food items which may contain high levels of iron (e.g. meat, dog food, grapes, blueberries, figs, etc.), and limit citrus fruit (oranges, grapefruit) because they may enhance the uptake of iron.
- **Reproduction:** Females which are heavy layers may need supplementation of pure, pharmaceutical-grade calcium carbonate at a rate of 2% of their daily intake during the laying season only.
- Prepared gel should be consumed or discarded within 24 hours or stored no longer than 7 days under refrigeration or up to 1 month frozen.
- If frozen, it is recommended that frozen batches be individually sealed in amount of usage, as repeated entry into the container exposes gel to oxygen.
- Always provide plenty of fresh, clean water. Thoroughly wash feed and water bowls on a regular basis. It is always good practice to wash hands thoroughly after feeding and/or handling animals. This diet is not for human consumption.

**CAUTION:** This product is designed to have a low concentration of dietary iron. No readily available iron source is added as an ingredient to this diet. This product is not intended to be a sole diet for growing birds or birds which are not iron sensitive.

### Storage Conditions

Mazuri® Gel Diets have a 1-year shelf life in the dry powder form when stored in a dry environment. For best results, tightly affix lid on canister after removal of desired dosage or store contents of open bags in container with sealing lid. Store in a cool (75°F/24°C or colder), dry (approximately 50% RH) location free from rodents and insects. Do not feed moldy or insect-infested feed to animals as it may cause illness, performance loss or death. The mixed product should be stored under refrigeration for no longer than 7 days or frozen for up to 1 month. It is recommended that frozen batches be individually sealed in amount of usage, as repeated entry into the container exposes gel to oxygen. Once this product is mixed, it should be handled like raw food.



## NUTRITION

- Unique way to provide complete nutrition
- Wide variety of formulas available to fit any feeding program



## MOISTURE

- High moisture – helps keep animals hydrated
- Highly palatable – great for picky eaters



## VERSATILITY

- Cut into any desired size and shape
- Easy, healthy way to provide supplements & medications



## SIMPLICITY

- Incredibly simple to make!
- Mixing directions can be modified to create a customized food item for any animal

Learn more at  
**mazuri.com**



# Getting the Most Out of Mazuri® Gel Diets

Mazuri® gel diets are a simple solution to provide flexible, high-quality nutrition for birds, fish, primates, reptiles, and more!

## Creative Ideas

### Gel Shapes

There are several ways to make your regular gel diet more fun or more functional for your animal!

- Cut the prepared gel into any shape and size you want—strips, cubes, cakes, crumbles, or even worm shapes
  - Fun-shaped ice cube trays make great molds when preparing the gels
- Use muffin tins to form “cupcakes.” For added enrichment, try “frosting” them with healthy, species-appropriate foods; for example, pureed carrot or sweet potato and bamboo or carrot sticks for “candles.” For tortoises or iguanas, try topping with a hibiscus flower.

**TIP** For bright colors, simply add food coloring.

### Add-ins

Gel diets can also be customized by incorporating other food items! During mixing, try adding in:

- Chopped fruits or vegetables
- Dried insects
- Flavors or coloring for picky eaters
- Medications as directed by your veterinarian
- Nutritional supplements if needed

**TIP** Let it cool down a little if adding vitamins.



Finished gel example

## Frequently Asked Questions: Answered

### Q Can I adjust the powder to water ratio during mixing?

**A** Yes! Adjust the ratio as needed to achieve the consistency you and your animals prefer. Increasing the proportion of gel powder will increase the density and firmness of the finished product.

### Q Why do you have to use hot water?

**A** Hot water activates the gelling agent and helps reduce the potential bacteria load in the diet.

### Q For animals also fed fish or whole prey, are additional vitamin or mineral supplements required if a gel diet is fed?

**A** Mazuri gels are fortified diets so the gel portion of the diet does not need to be supplemented. However, if gel and prey are fed in combination, the portion of the diet made up of fish or prey will still need to be supplemented.

**TIP** All Mazuri® supplements give directions on the ratio of supplement to amount of fish or prey—so follow those directions for the non-gel portion of the diet only.

### Q Why is it recommended that gels are fed only up to 50% of the diet for most aquatic species?

**A** When gels are greater than 50% of the diet, the passage rate through aquatic species GI tract can increase, which may lead to less efficient digestion of the diet.

### Q Can Mazuri® gel diets be used for tube feeding?

**A** Yes, when cool water is used to prepare the diet the mixture will remain a liquid that can be used for tube feeding if necessary. Or, check out Mazuri's meal diet options designed just for this purpose!

## Simple Steps to Prepare Mazuri<sup>®</sup> Gel Diets

### What You'll Need:

- Kitchen scale for weighing Mazuri<sup>®</sup> gel powder
- Measuring cup for water
- Boiling or near-boiling water
- Metal spoon, whisk or fork
- Bowl for mixing (metal often works best)
- Container for setting up gel mixture

### Directions



**1** Determine the suggested gel:water ratio stated on the product sheet  
(always available at [Mazuri.com](http://Mazuri.com))



**2** Weigh out Mazuri<sup>®</sup> gel powder and place in mixing container

If adding any food items to the gel, mix them with the dry powder. If adding vitamins, wait until after gel is mixed and cooled slightly.



**3** Measure the hot water and pour into mixing container



**4** Mix thoroughly for 2 minutes



**5** Pour into shallow pan, cover, and refrigerate overnight



**6** Cut gel into desired size and shape after it sets

Once you cut and use what you need for the day, you can refrigerate or freeze the rest for later!

### Shelf Life

**1 WEEK** Prepared (Refrigerated)

**1 MONTH** Prepared (Frozen)

**1 YEAR** Dry Powder

For more detailed instructions on how to make your Mazuri<sup>®</sup> Gel Diet, please see the product specification sheet or visit *How to Prepare Mazuri<sup>®</sup> Gel Diets* at [mazuri.com](http://mazuri.com).

For more information on any of these diets and nutritional support consult the detailed spec sheets at [mazuri.com](http://mazuri.com).

If you have any questions please contact us at [info@mazuri.com](mailto:info@mazuri.com) or **1-833-4MAZURI**

[mazuri.com](http://mazuri.com)