

Green Anole

The Green Anole is a small to medium-sized lizard, with a slender body. The head is long and pointed with ridges between the eyes and nostrils, and smaller ones on the top of the head. The toes have adhesive pads to facilitate climbing. They exhibit sexual dimorphism, the males being fifteen percent larger. The male dewlap (throat fan) is three times the size of the female's and red, whereas that of the female is white.

- **Common Name:** Green anole, Carolina anole, American anole, American chameleon, Red-throated anole
- **Scientific Name:** *Anolis carolinensis*
- **Distribution:** North America
- **Size:** 4.9"–8.0" (females 15% smaller than males)
- **Life Span:** 2 to 8 years

Habitat

Anoles can be housed in a fairly small tank or terrarium. A 10 gallon tank is sufficient for a single or pair of anoles. A larger tank is of course better though and if you are housing multiple anoles lots of space is necessary.

You should only keep one male anole per tank. Females will get along fine as long as the tank is roomy enough, there are plenty of basking spots, and multiple places to hide. A securely fitted lid is necessary since green anoles can squeeze through very small places.

A humidity level of 60-70% is necessary for green anoles (use a hygrometer to monitor these levels). This can usually be achieved by misting the inside of the tank daily.

Misting systems are available although they are quite expensive. If you are having a hard time maintaining the humidity level try

covering part of the top of the tank and/or increasing the number of live plants in the enclosure. Misting also provides drinking water for the anoles as they often will not drink from a bowl (they will lick droplets of water off the misted plants like chameleons).

Heating

- Daytime Terrarium Temperature 75-80°F
- Basking Temperature 85-90°F
- Nighttime Terrarium Temperature 65-75 F

A combination of under tank heaters and a basking light on one side of the tank works well. Make sure the appropriate temperature gradient is provided by measuring temperatures in various spots around the tank. Do not use white basking lights to achieve night time temperatures but instead use heating pads, ceramic heating elements, or special night heat lights.

Lighting

In addition to the incandescent basking light you should provide a full spectrum UVA/UVB light for 10-12 hours per day. This special light will help prevent your anole from developing metabolic bone disease, keep them looking brightly colored, active, and happy. The UVB bulb needs to be changed out every six months (even if it hasn't burned out) and nothing should be blocking the light other than a metal mesh screen (no plastic or glass).

Substrates

A substrate of peat moss and soil with or without a layer of bark (e.g. orchid bark) is an ideal substrate for anoles. Live plants help maintain humidity and provide cover.

Favorite live plants include sansevierias (snake plants), bromeliads, philodendrons, ivy, orchids and vines. Pieces of bark and branches should also be provided for climbing and basking.

Nutrition

Green anoles are insectivores and are generally good eaters. While crickets can be the main part of the diet, it is best to feed a variety of gut loaded insects including mealworms, wax worms, crickets, and dubia roaches. Feed two to three appropriately sized prey items that are about half the size of the anole's head every other day. A calcium and vitamin supplement should also be dusted on the insects.

Tips

Do not to attempt to handle them very often. Purchase a quality book on the care and husbandry of these animals before bringing any animal home.

This is only a basic care sheet, Please continue to educate yourself on your new family member.