

Care & Information Sheet

Green & Bahama Anoles

Anolis spp



Anoles are active and require 10-12 hours of light a day as the day/night cycle is important to their health. Green anoles are often referred to as chameleons because of their ability to change colors from dark brown to a vivid green. Males have a large red or pink throat fan called a dewlap, which is used to establish territories and mating. Anoles may detach their tails if grabbed or feel threatened. A new tail will generally grow in but is rarely the same as the original in color, texture, or size. The average size of an anole is 5-8 inches and with proper care and nutrition they can live 3 or more years.

Habitat

- A 10-20 gallon tank with a secure cover is appropriate for one anole.
- Because anoles are a tropical lizard, keep the cage at 80% humidity by misting several times a day.
- Provide perching and hiding areas with limbs and cork bark.
- Temperature - Should range from 75°F to 88°F with a hot spot of 100°F. Night temperatures should not be lower than 60°F. Anoles are arboreal, so you should use an overhead heat source.
- Lighting – UVB rays with full spectrum lighting for 10-12 hours a day is required. An incandescent bulb can be used for the basking area during daylight hours only. A ceramic heater can be used at all hours.
- Substrate – Use sphagnum moss, mulch-type or reptile bark. Use a substrate that helps retain the humidity in the tank.
- Clean the tank at least once a week. Place anole in a secure habitat, scrub tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution, rinse thoroughly with water, removing all smell of bleach, dry tank and furnishings and add clean substrate.

Food & Water

- Provide a variety of insects, including crickets, mealworms and wax worms, no larger than half the size of the anole's head.
- Feed once a day. Provide only as many crickets as can be eaten within a few hours.
- Dust crickets with calcium daily and a multi-vitamin supplement once or twice a week.
- Water – May not drink from a water bowl. Mist the habitat twice daily or use a drip water system with chlorine-free water. Anoles will drink water droplets from plants so be sure to have them in their habitat.

Grooming and Hygiene

- Anoles regularly shed their skin so be sure the humidity is at an appropriate level to allow for proper shedding. To facilitate shedding provide a shed box, which is essentially a hide box with damp sphagnum moss that will aid in the shedding process.

Supplies

Habitat with Screen Lid	Full Spectrum Fluorescent Light	Calcium supplement
Substrate	Incandescent Light or Ceramic Heater	Water & Food Bowls
Branches & Cork Bark	Thermometer & Humidity Gauge	Water Drip System or Misting Bottle
Artificial or Non Toxic Plants	Vitamin & Mineral Supplement	Book about Anoles

Health

Because anoles are potential carriers of Salmonella and infectious diseases, always wash your hands before and after handling your anoles and or the habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of disease.

You should consult with an exotic animal veterinarian if you observe any of the following conditions.

- Metabolic Bone/Vitamin Deficiency- Inability to absorb calcium due to insufficient UVB light. If untreated, can lead to a disorder characterized by deformities, softened bones, swollen limbs and lethargy. Provide ample UVB lighting.
- Respiratory Disease - Labored breathing, runny nose, swollen eyes. Can be caused by temperatures that are too cold. Ensure proper lighting, water, and basking conditions.
- Gastro-intestinal Disease Runny stools, caked or smeared stool around the vent area, and loss of appetite caused by bacterial or parasitic infection.

For information regarding anoles and disease, contact the Center for Disease Control at <http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets>

NOTE: The information contained in this document is for general reference only. Please consult a veterinarian for medical advice and concerns.

Sources: Anoles, Basilisks, & Water Dragons: A Complete Pet Care Manual by Richard D. Bartlett
Green Anoles: Selection, Care, and Breeding by Ray Hunziker