

Green and Bahama Anoles

Anolis spp



CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

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.



Is a green or Bahama anole the right companion animal for you?

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Check "Yes" or "No" after reading the following statements:

- I have limited space for a companion animal.
- I want a pet that doesn't require obedience or house training.
- I can maintain a tropical habitat requiring high humidity.
- I can commit to providing proper care for this lizard.
- A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for this companion animal.

If you answered, "Yes" to these statements, a green or Bahama anole may be the right choice for you! Continue reading about how to care for a green or Bahama anole and consult with a PETCO associate to learn more. PETCO is committed to responsible companion animal care.

Average Size 5 to 8 inches long **Life Span** Up to 3+ years with proper care

Diet Provide a variety of insects, including crickets, mealworms and wax worms, no larger than half the size of the anole's head

Feeding Feed daily; 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

Housing Due to the varied sizes and growth rates of reptiles and their individualized needs, we recommend you consult your qualified reptile veterinarian and a book on this species to determine it's specific housing requirements

Size – Appropriate size and shape habitat for an adult anole to accommodate normal behaviors and exercise; a 10-20 gallon tank is appropriate for one anole

Substrate – Use sphagnum moss, mulch-type or reptile bark; use a substrate that helps retain humidity

Habitat – Anoles are a tropical lizard; keep 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 use an overhead heat source

Lighting – UVB rays with full spectrum lighting for 10 to 12 hours a day is required; an incandescent bulb can be used for basking area during daylight hours only; can use a ceramic heater at all hours

Water – May not drink from a water bowl; mist the habitat twice daily or use a drip water system with chlorine-free water; will drink water droplets from plants; provide plenty of artificial or real, non-toxic plants

Never house multiple male anoles or different species of reptiles together

Recommended Supplies	<input type="checkbox"/> Habitat with secure lid	<input type="checkbox"/> Full spectrum florescent light	<input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer
	<input type="checkbox"/> Drip water system	<input type="checkbox"/> Limbs or cork bark	<input type="checkbox"/> Substrate
	<input type="checkbox"/> Humidity gauge and misting bottle	<input type="checkbox"/> Incandescent basking light or ceramic heater	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-toxic plants, branches
	<input type="checkbox"/> Book about anoles	<input type="checkbox"/> Vitamin/mineral supplement	<input type="checkbox"/> Calcium supplement

Green and Bahama Anoles

Anolis spp



CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Normal Behavior and Interaction

Anoles are active and require 10-12 hours of light as the day/night cycle is important for health of anoles

Anoles may drop their tails if grabbed or otherwise feel threatened. A new tail will generally grow in but are rarely the same as the original in color, texture, or size.

Habitat Maintenance

Mist cage twice daily

Thoroughly clean the tank at least once a week: place anole in a temporary, secure habitat; scrub the tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution; rinse thoroughly with water, removing all smell of bleach; dry completely the tank and furnishings; add clean substrate and replace clean furnishings/accessories

Grooming and Hygiene

Anoles regularly shed their skin; ensure humidity of habitat is appropriate to allow proper shedding; a shed box, which is essentially a hide box with damp sphagnum moss, is a good idea as this will aid in the shedding process

Always wash your hands before and after touching your anole or habitat contents to help prevent *Salmonella* and other infectious diseases

Signs of a Healthy Animal

- Active and alert
- Healthy skin
- Full body and tail
- Clear eyes
- Eats regularly
- Clear nose and vent

Common Health Issues

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

Red Flags

- Weight loss or decreased appetite
- Swelling
- Bumps, sores, or abrasions on skin
- Paralysis of limbs or tail
- Mucus in mouth or nose
- Lethargy
- Labored breathing
- Abnormal feces

If you notice any of these signs, please contact your exotic animal veterinarian.

Sources

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

Note: The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the above sources or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.