



All About the **Green Anole**

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The Green Anole

About the Green Anole

The Green Anole is one of the most commonly available lizards in the pet trade, and makes a good beginner reptile. They are sometimes called American Chameleons, although they are not true chameleons. They can, however, change their color from brown through to a bright emerald green. There are several species of anole, the most common pet species being the green anole (*Anolis carolinensis*), native to the southeastern U.S. and the Caribbean. Cuban (Knight) and brown anoles can also be found fairly readily for pets.



Average Length	8 inches	Characteristics	Curious, active, friendly, shy
Average Lifespan	4 years	Special Needs	Heat lamp, humidity control
Coloring	All colors	Health Concerns	No serious concerns

Green Anole Characteristics

With an adult length of around 8 inches, anoles are attractive little lizards. Males have a colorful dewlap (fold of skin under the chin/neck), which they flash during territorial and courtship displays. Females of some species also have dewlaps although they are generally smaller and not displayed as often. They can drop their long tail if grabbed by the tail, a defense against predators in the wild that they will not hesitate to use if held by the tail. The tail will usually regenerate but will not look the same as the original. They are fairly skittish and shy, but with consistent and gentle handling will become somewhat tame. An exception is the Cuban anole which is a more aggressive species.

These reptiles have an average life span of 4 years and are reasonably easy to care for; however, the cost of setting up the appropriate habitat can be costly. Anoles can be kept singly or in small groups. Males are territorial and may display and fight with one another, so a group is best composed of females with no more than one male.

Selecting Your Green Anole

Before you acquire an exotic animal of any kind, it is important to research and read about its care. As the interest in owning reptiles has increased over the last several years, many books and pamphlets have been produced to help potential new owners discover what species is right for them.

Select a Green Anole that is responsive when handled. Consider not only the overall look of the Green Anole, but also its current living conditions; this will give you an indication of how well it has been cared for. Be sure to only select a Green Anole from a pet shop or breeder in which all animals appear to be healthy and well cared for. Some things to look for:

- full and plump bodies
- healthy skin with sleek scales
- bright and clear eyes

- [Health Care for Your Anole](#)
- [Food for Your Anole](#)



[Habitat](#)



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Selecting Your Green Anole's Habitat

When selecting your reptile's habitat, it is important to consider several things such as what type and size is appropriate, as well as substrate, temperature, light, furniture, and what type of feeding accommodations are necessary.

Type and Size of Your Green Anole's Habitat

Anoles can be housed in a fairly small tank--a 10 gallon is sufficient for a single anole, or perhaps a pair. Larger is better, and if 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 and there are plenty of basking spots and places to hide. A securely fitted lid is necessary.

During the day, provide a gradient from 75 to 80 F (24 to 27 C) with a basking spot of 85 to 90 F (29 to 32 C). A combination of under-tank heating 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. Night temperature can drop to a gradient of 65 to 75 F (18 to 24 C). Do not use basking lights to achieve nighttime temperatures --use heating pads and/or ceramic heating elements. In addition to the incandescent basking light, provide a full spectrum UVA/UVB light for 10 to 12 hours per day.

A humidity level of 60 to 70% is necessary for anoles. This can usually be achieved by misting the inside of the tank daily. It is a good idea to measure the humidity level to make sure it is adequate for anoles. Misting systems are available at a range of prices.. 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. 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).

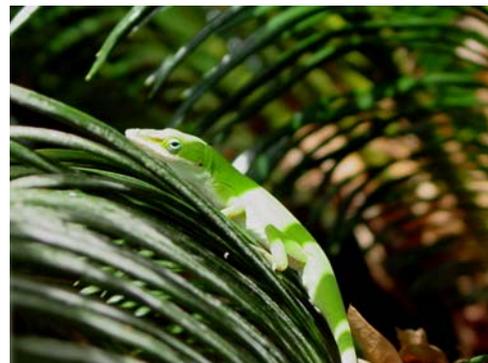
Habitat Care and Maintenance

Any debris should be removed from the tank on a daily basis, feces on a weekly basis. Your entire substrate should be changed weekly. A substrate of peat moss and soil with or without a layer of bark (e.g. orchid bark) is an ideal substrate for anoles.

Maintaining a happy and healthy habitat for your Green Anole can be generally easy, as long as you keep up with it. Regularly change your substrate to assure and maintain good health.

Feeding

Green Anoles eat "gut loaded" crickets, mealworms and superworms or waxworms; insects should be dusted with a calcium supplement twice a week. Juveniles should be fed twice a day while adults need to be fed three to four times a week; you should offer an amount that can be consumed by the end of the day. Anoles frequently will not drink from a dish, so misting the tank and plants on a daily basis is imperative.



You'll need these basics before your Green Anole comes home. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

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- [Tank Lid](#)
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- [Misting Machine](#)
- [Basking Lamp](#)
- [Moss Bedding](#)
- [Bark Bedding](#)
- [Calcium Supplement](#)



[Gut Load Cricket Drink](#)

The Green Anole Baby

At this stage of your Green Anole's life, starting them out properly will ensure that you keep a happy and healthy Green Anole for the span of its life. Babies and juveniles should be fed twice a day. Their diet will consist of crickets, mealworms, superworms or waxworms. It is important to note that Green Anoles will not drink water from a dish. This makes it imperative that you mist the tank and plants everyday.

The Green Anole Adult

As your Green Anole grows, their needs change. You will want to be sure your adult Green Anole has adjusted to its surroundings. Adults can be fed insects three to four times a week. You should place as much food in their habitat as they will eat by the end of the day. If they have not consumed what you have given them completely, take the leftovers out and for the next feeding, give them a little less. It is still imperative to mist the tank everyday.

The Senior Green Anole

As you go through the years with your Green Anole, you will want to ensure they are comfortable, kept warm, adhering to their diets, and maintaining a light source. Annual visits to a veterinarian who specializes in reptiles are essential in ensuring that your Green Anole stays healthy for years to come.

Medical Considerations

When kept in optimum conditions, the Green Anole is a relatively healthy species of reptile. Some things to watch for are runny droppings or red streaks in droppings for more than two days, lethargic behavior, lowered food and water consumption, weight loss, swollen joints, and discharge from the eyes, nose or mouth.

Necessary Items

When you initially bring your new Anole home, you only need the basics; an aquarium with proper substrate, a basking area, a feeding area and a method for feeding planned.

As you and your new Anole become accustomed to one another, you will key in on its likes and dislikes; you can then begin adding new things to their habitat and daily routine.



Can't miss gifts for the Green Anole owner:

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