

green and Bahama anole care sheet



Green anoles often change colors from dark brown to a vivid green. Males have a pink throat fan called a dewlap, which is used to establish territories and during mating.

facts

average adult size: 5 to 8 inches long

average life span: up to 3+ years
with proper care

diet: insectivore

Will reach adult size in 12 to 18 months, under ideal conditions.



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

Developed with and approved by a qualified veterinarian.

diet

A well-balanced anole diet consists of:

- A variety of insects, including gut-loaded (recently fed) crickets, mealworms and waxworms no larger than half the size of the anole's head.

feeding

Things to remember when feeding your anole:

- Fresh, clean, chlorine-free water should be available at all times.
- Feed daily.
- Sprinkle food with a calcium supplement daily and a multi-vitamin supplement once or twice a week.

housing

- Size - Appropriately sized and shaped habitat for an adult anole to accommodate normal behaviors and exercise.
- Habitat - Provide perching and hiding places with limbs and cork bark. Maintain 80% humidity by misting as needed every day.
- Substrate - Use sphagnum moss, mulch-type or reptile bark; use a substrate that helps retain humidity.

- Temperature - 75 to 88°F overall temperature, with a warm spot of 100°F; nighttime temperature should not be lower than 60°F.
- Lighting - UVB rays with full spectrum lighting for 10 to 12 hours a day is required. An incandescent day bulb can be used for basking area during daylight hours only; can use a ceramic heater at all hours.
- House adult male anoles separately and do **not** house different reptile species together.

normal behavior

- Anoles are arboreal.
- Anoles may drop their tail if grabbed or otherwise feel threatened. A new tail will generally grow in but it is rarely the original color, texture or size.

habitat maintenance

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

grooming & hygiene

- Anoles regularly shed their skin; ensure humidity of habitat is at appropriate level to allow proper shedding. To facilitate shedding, provide a shed box, a hide box with sphagnum moss, that will aid in the shedding process.

signs of a healthy animal

- Active and alert
- Clear eyes
- Body and tail are filled out
- Healthy skin
- Clear nose and vent
- Eats regularly

red flags

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

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

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 veterinarian.
Metabolic bone/vitamin deficiency	Inability to absorb calcium due to insufficient UVB light or improper amounts of calcium/vitamin D. If untreated, can lead to a disorder characterized by deformities, softened bones, swollen limbs and lethargy.	Consult your veterinarian and provide ample UVB lighting and proper calcium/vitamin supplements.
Respiratory disease	Labored breathing and mucus in the mouth or nose. Can be caused by a habitat that is too cold or damp.	Consult your veterinarian and ensure habitat is proper temperature.

shopping list for needed supplies

- Appropriately sized habitat
- Substrate
- Moss
- Water and mealworm dishes
- Hideaway place
- Climbing décor
- Plants
- Heat light
- Heat fixture
- Under-tank heater (optional)
- UVB lighting and fixture
- Vitamin supplement
- Calcium supplement
- Cricket quencher
- Cricket keeper
- Cricket food
- Thermometer
- Humidity gauge
- Book about anoles

sources

Ask a store partner about Petco's selection of books on anoles and the variety of private brand products available for the care and happiness of your new pet. All private brand products carry a 100% money-back guarantee.

Because all reptiles are potential carriers of infectious diseases, such as *Salmonella*, always wash your hands before and after handling your reptile or habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of disease.

Pregnant women, children under the age of 5, senior citizens and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing or caring for reptiles and should consider not having a reptile as a pet.

Go to **cdc.gov/healthypets** and **petco.com/caresheet** for more information about small animals and disease.

This Care Sheet can cover the care needs of other species. Go to **petco.com** for more information.

