



## Brown Anole *Anolis sagrei*

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- Also known as the Cuban Brown Anole or Bahamian Anole.
- This anole species is indigenous to Cuba, the Bahamas, and surrounding islands, but is also widely introduced elsewhere including the Southeastern and south central United States.
- Brown anoles range from light to dark brown, blackish, grayish brown, to tan with a lighter colored dorsal stripe and other light and dark dorsal flecks, crossbars, or striping. The dewlap is reddish orange, and males may also develop a low crest and dorsal ridge as well.
- Brown anoles may attain longevity of 5-6 years or slightly more under the proper care.

### **Size**

4-8 inches as adults.

### **Housing**

Provide a sturdy and secure enclosure that is escape proof. Brown anoles are active and semi-arboreal lizards, so provide a 20-30 gallon tall, well ventilated terrarium or vivarium. Slightly dampened peat moss, untreated soil, bark substrates, or sphagnum moss can be utilized for a substrate. Additional furnishings for basking, climbing, and seeking refuge are also important components to a brown anole setup, and can include natural or artificial foliage, rocks, vines, or branches. For water, anoles can be misted periodically (which is how these lizards derive most of their hydration) or can be provided a shallow water dish that can be cleaned and replaced regularly.

Additional heating and lighting is also necessary to maintain brown anoles. Create a sufficient day/night thermal gradient with full spectrum UV lighting with ambient temperatures in the low 80's to mid 90's for a basking spot during the day, and mid 60-mid 70 degrees F at night.

### **Feeding/Diet**

Brown anoles are primarily insectivorous in the wild and in captivity, feeding on insects and other small invertebrates. In captivity, feeder insects such as small roaches, crickets, mealworms, or waxworms are all acceptable for anoles. Feed 2-3 times weekly in most instances. Brown anoles also require additional gutloading of feeder insects and/or vitamin D3 supplementation for optimal nutrition.

### **Handling**

Brown anoles are active and fragile lizards that may tolerate some levels of handling. These lizards can also drop their tails if handled roughly as well. However, handling should be kept to a minimum when possible, making these lizards better suited as display species.

\*\*Also be sure to practice basic cleanliness and hygiene associated with proper husbandry after touching or handling any animals or animal enclosures to prevent the possibility of contracting salmonellosis or any other zoonotic pathogens\*\*