



Green Anole *Anolis carolinensis*

- Green anoles are indigenous to the Southeastern United States and some areas of the Caribbean.
- Typically green or brown in color, these are small lizards with slightly enlarged toe pads, a long, pointed head, and pinkish red dewlap in which males use to signal territory and dominance.
- Green anoles have some color changing ability, and are often referred to as the “American chameleons”, but they are not true chameleons. True chameleons are not indigenous to the Americas.
- Green 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. Green anoles are active and 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 green 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 green 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

Green 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. Green anoles also require additional gutloading of feeder insects and/or vitamin D3 supplementation for optimal nutrition.

Handling

Green 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