

## **Roger's Aquatics & Pet Supplies: Green Anoles**

*Anolis carolinensis* is a small species of lizard native to SE US, Cuba, Jamaica, and the Caribbean. Males typically reach 8 inches while females typically max out between 5 – 6 inches. Under proper care these lizards can live 6 – 7 years. They are great for beginners since their maintenance is fairly easy but are not good for people who wish to have lots of handling time. This lizard is diurnal, meaning they are active during the day.

### Enclosure: Size, Substrate, and Accessories

A 10 gallon or a 12" x 12" x 18" Zoo Med/Exo Terra enclosure is suitable for a single anole. When housing multiples, a larger tank should be provided. For groups of 3, a 20 gallon tall or a 18" x 18" x 24" Zoo Med/Exo Terra enclosure works well.

Coco coir with leaf litter and moss or paper towel are ideal substrate choices. Coco coir will hold humidity well and will provide an area for females to lay eggs should they need too. Young anoles should only be housed on paper towel. It is important to note that there is a risk of impaction with any animal that is being housed on loose substrate. Typically, impaction only occurs to animals that are dehydrated, not receiving adequate lighting or diet, or in some other way are unhealthy, and it is much rarer than people think, but if you choose to keep your animal on loose substrate you should familiarize yourself with the signs of impaction and see what local vets deal with reptiles. Substrates should be changed out every 3 – 4 months as they will hold bacteria.

In the wild, green anoles typically inhabit low bushes and trees. This should be mimicked in the terrarium. Branches, vines, and plants should be provided. Some of the branches should create a basking area. Hammocks can also be used as basking areas.

### Lighting and Heat

A basking area of 85 – 90 F should be provided, with a cold side of 75 – 80 F. At night the temperature can drop to 65 – 75 F comfortably. To attain these temps, a daylight basking bulb, a low wattage mercury vapour bulb (MVB) or a ceramic heat emitter can be used. A proper thermometer should always be used to measure the temperature. Too hot, and the animal could overheat. Too cold, and they won't grow properly or won't digest properly. Digital is preferred, since it is more accurate.

A 5.0 UVB bulb should be used (unless a MVB bulb is being used, in which case additional UVB lighting is not necessary). This type of lighting is essential in maintaining proper vitamin D3 levels, which allows them to properly absorb and metabolize calcium, regulates the immune system, and promotes proper organ development. Since these lights are aren't quite the same as the sun, providing a calcium with added D3 once in a while is beneficial. UVB lights should be replaced every 6 – 12 months.

### Diet and Supplements

Crickets, meal worms wax worms butter worms of appropriate sizes can all be fed to anoles. Wax worms and butter worms should be reserved as a treat every one or two weeks. Babies should be fed daily, while adults can be maintained on feedings every second day. Feeders should be dusted with calcium without D3 every few feedings, and a multivitamin once a week. It can be beneficial use calcium with D3 once in a while. All feeders should be gut loaded 1 – 24 hours prior to feeding. Some anoles will accept Pangea or Repashy diets once in a while.

### Hydration and Humidity

A humidity level of 60 – 70% should be maintained. This can be done with mistings once or twice a day. A proper hygrometer should always be used to measure the humidity levels. Digital is preferred, since it's more accurate. It is important to provide these mistings since the anoles will typically lap up water from the leaves. A water dish can be provided, but it should be shallow so that they anoles can get out should they fall in. The water dish should be cleaned out every few days and bleached once a week.

### Cohabitation

Green anoles are best kept in singly or in groups of three or four (one male per group). Groups can potentially breed if there is a male, so if multiple anoles are wanted but no babies, only females should be kept together.

### Sexing

Males have dewlaps that flare out when they are showing aggression or are trying to impress females. They are also slightly larger. Females have a white stripe down their back.

### Checklist of Supplies

- ✓ Appropriate size tank for amount of anoles being housed (screen lip and clips may be necessary)
- ✓ Décor – vines, branches, foliage
- ✓ Substrate – coco coir or paper towel
- ✓ Heat lamp and appropriate wattage bulb
- ✓ 5.0 UVB light and fixture
- ✓ Thermometer
- ✓ Hygrometer
- ✓ Mister (or misting system)
- ✓ Calcium (with and without D3)
- ✓ Multivitamin
- ✓ Insect keeper
- ✓ Insect diet
- ✓ Insect gut load
- ✓ Pangea or Repashy (optional)