

## ----- Feeding

The largest prey should be no bigger than 1/2 of the size of the head of the lizard you are feeding. Make sure you are present as live prey can & will fight back causing an injury to your pet. Their natural diet is on small bugs, worms & other reptiles eggs.

Suppliment with diced fruits & moist vegetables (remember to keep the food fresh). 'Leafy' greens which are high in calcium; kale, argula, collard & mustard greens, parsley, dandelion greens & flowers, endives, radish, carrot & turnip tops. Mixed into the greens may be many other veggies such as squash, corn, peas, carrots (shredded), sweet potato, cucumber, zucchini, green peppers, chard... also chopped fruit such as cantaloupe, apple, blueberries, peaches, pears, grapes, plums, raspberries... all chopped finely to avoid choking. Mealworms likely won't be accepted by anole.

**Seek veterinary attention if your pet changes behavior or becomes inactive; this may indicate the pet has an illness.**

**As a pet owner, you are responsible for proper pet practices. Be prepared to take an ill pet to a Veterinarian & know which Veterinarian in your area can treat your pet.**



## check-list ✓ *Your pet Anole requires...*

- Aquarium or Terrarium of appropriate size
- Red light / Heat source
- UVB Light (day use)
- Blue Light (\*optional-for night use)
- Under-tank heater or 'heated rock'
- Water dish or bowl (\*optional)
- Substrate or bedding material
- Caves/Dens (\*optional)
- Vines & branches (for climbing)
- Misting bottle (simple plant sprayer for water)
- Thermometer
- Food dish for fresh fruits & veg'
- Tightly sealable box for keeping 'live' food(insects)

## Anole

- Size: average length 8-18 cm. Larger species can reach 50 cm. in length.
- Life Span: 4 - 6 years on average in captivity, although they may live longer.



## ----- Temperament

Anoles are small & common lizards that can be found throughout the southeastern United States, the Caribbean, & various other regions of the Western world. Anole are a commonly kept pet reptile. There are currently about 372 known species. The majority of them are a green color, such as the North America Green anole but also come in a brown skin, such as the prevalent Cuban brown anole. Anole lizards are frequently called American chameleons or geckos. This misconception is likely due to their ability to alter their skin color according to their mood. Nearly all anoles change color, the extent & variations differs widely throughout the individual species. Some anole change the skin pattern or markings rather than the color. The anole is actually a subfamily Polychrotinae of the family Iguanidae.

These subtropical lizards are semi arboreal. They usually inhabit regions around 3-6 m (10-20 feet) high. Shrubs, walls, fences, bushes, & short trees are common hiding places. These conditions are easily replicated in a tank or cage environment.

When an intruder is in the area, the anole raises its spine, fans its dewlap, & does "push-ups" accompanied by intermittent ultrasonic hisses. Females don't usually fight. As a pet, they will bite if agitated & require some effort to remove. They very rarely draw blood or cause injury. Some anoles may become comfortable with being handled. Handling is very stressful to them, & will cause them to become ill. They will bite you, but they are small & fragile. If you jerk your hand away - this can break their jaws or cause teeth to be ripped out. Handle them as little as possible, & don't yank away your hand if you get bit - put them back in their enclosure so that they can feel something under their feet. They can drop their tails if it gets grabbed (this is called autotomy), & their toes can be broken or injured if removed ungently while they are gripping.

## ----- Housing



Anole are a safe, small lizard & a good pet choice. They are fragile, so handle with care.

Anole do not need much room. A tall 20 gallon fish tank is fine for 2 or 3 anole. All environments must have tight fitting doors or lids. Anole's are known to be of a curious nature & will escape given the chance. They will clean the bugs in your house but avoid you. Your Dragon's environment should include:

- **Substrate:** Sterile peat moss potting soil over 1 inch of pea gravel, OR 1-2 inches of potting soil covered with bark mulch are the most common methods. Try to devope a warm but moist environment.
- **Heating:** The temperature in your lizards enclosure should be between 76 - 86 Fahrenheit with 90-100 in a "basking spot". At night the temperature can drop as low as 60 to 65. An under tank heater can be used as the only source of heat by putting it on half the tank You also can use a red light 24/7 for added continual heat.
- **Decoration:** Branches, vines, rocks, etc are good things to have in your enclosure to give your lizard something to climb on & bask on. Hiding boxes are not recommended for young lizards, it may decide to hide instead of bask and therefore will not eat and grow properly.
- **Water:** The ambient humidity should be 60-70%... humid but not wet. A couple of live plants to help maintain humidity & provide cover should be included. Spray plants with water a couple times a day as Anole prefer this rather than water from a bowl. A dripping bottle into a bowl will attract them if they have trouble finding the water bowl.

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## ----- Shedding



Anole's skin is actually reptile scales, not unlike a snake. It does not grow along with the lizard & it must be shed.

Shedding requires no help from the owner - actually anything you do to help will only hurt your pet. Never pull any hanging skin that is partially attached, even if it partially obstructs his vision or he fusses with it. Do not worry, it is all perfectly natural. When a green anole turns brown, it is a sign of severe stress. Stressed anoles may turn green at night when they are asleep, but will turn brown again once they wake. The stress may be environmental (enclosure is too hot or too cold, or a pet problem when you aren't around, etc.), or it may be psychosocial, something that will happen if you are keeping two or more anoles together in one enclosure.

## -----Social Behavior & Breeding

Anoles are best kept singly or in groups. Generally, males should be kept singly or in the company of two or more females. They do not take kindly to other anoles in their territory. If green anoles & brown anoles cohabit the same area, the brown anoles are primarily terrestrial or restrict themselves to the lower branches of bushes, while the green anoles stay higher. They do not mix & should not be housed together as pets.

Captive anoles will breed, or attempt to, readily if conditions are right. Signs of breeding include males displaying their dewlaps & posturing to females. Males may start bobbing their heads. If the female runs away she's not ready; if she stays or allows herself to be caught, bows her head, the male will grab her neck with his mouth & they will mate. Mating generally occurs in afternoon or evening hours. Breeding season lasts 4-5 months. She will search out a warm moist place in the substrate & deposit an egg (rarely, two may be laid), covering the egg with the substrate. This will be repeated every two weeks, for a total of about 10 eggs per breeding season. Many successful hatchings have been achieved leaving by the eggs in the vivarium & added care not required. Eggs should hatch in 35-40 days. Males are larger than females & have a dewlap (throat fan) which they use to display to females.

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