

## Brown / Green Anole

(*Anolis sp.*)



Country of Origin	United States of America
Average Size	2 – 4 Inches
Temperament	Good for Display
Food Source	Livefoods
Experience Level	Beginner

This caresheet deals with two very similar species – the brown anole (*Anolis sagre*) and the green anole (*Anolis carolinensis*). Both look fairly similar, and have similar needs. Both can be found in Florida and the surrounding areas, although only the green was originally native to the United States.

Both species can be housed together, and will even mate, although there will be no offspring from a mix of these two species. It is also easy to distinguish a male as they have brightly coloured dewlaps which protrude beneath the chin when they are showing off to females, or attempting to intimidate other males. Females sometimes (but not always) have a chequered white/brown pattern running down their back, in both species.

Green anoles can change colour to brown, but are most definitely not chameleons of any kind. They change colour due to stress and heat, not due to any ability to blend in with the surroundings. Green anoles will change to brown when unhappy or irritated, and when most upset, will have black marks behind the eyes. These anoles have pads on their feet enabling them to climb walls, and can drop off their tails when grabbed, so are quite tricky to catch!

Anoles are excellent community species and do not attack other species. They may sometimes fight with other males of the same species during breeding season, if the vivarium is not big enough, but usually they stick to intimidating each other, and one will quickly back down. They are arboreal, and need a vivarium full of climbing branches and logs, especially beneath a basking spot, where they will spend most of the daytime hours.

A minimum of a 24 x 15 x 15" would be adequate for two to four anoles of either species, but the more space the better, as they are extremely active during daytime hours. Provide many branches, logs, and hiding places, as well as plants. Plastic plants can be used and the anoles will hide in these.

Anoles like a humid environment. Humidity should be anywhere between 50-80% so do not use sand as a substrate. Either bark chippings or moss would be ideal. Provide a water bowl, and also mist the enclosure daily. Anoles do not usually drink from a water bowl, but will lick the moisture off plants and walls. They will sometimes use a water bowl however so it should be provided, and will help to raise the humidity. The basking spot should be up to 90F, whilst the rest of the enclosure should be around 70-75F. UVB light is useful in maintaining healthy bones, and also bright colouration.

Anoles are primarily insectivorous, and feed with crickets, small hoppers, waxworms and mealworms. Anoles may also take some small amount of either fruit puree, or fruit based baby food, but it does not have to be part of their main diet.

Note that this is an excellent display reptile in a communal tank, but gets stressed easily and is always extremely fast, even as adults. To handle, slowly let the anole get used to your hand being inside the vivarium over a period of weeks, or even months. Eventually, the anole will begin to feel comfortable with you, and will climb onto your hand. At this point, you can remove your hand from the vivarium, but be inside a secure room in case your anole makes a run for it! Try to avoid grabbing this reptile unless absolutely necessary, as the stress can kill them.