

Anole

A CAROLINA™ CareSheet

Habitat Setup and Maintenance

Cover the bottom of the terrarium with potting soil, ensuring it is deep enough to allow for a plant. Add some sticks for the anole to climb on. Check the cover to be certain your anole cannot escape. If the cover does not have a built-in lamp, you will need to provide a small desk lamp.

Anoles do best at 24 to 27° C (75 to 80° F) with a warmer basking area that reaches 29.5 to 33° C (85 to 93° F). A small, low-wattage lamp will suffice. Leave the light on 12 to 14 hours a day. You will need to mist the terrarium daily; the anole will get its water from the droplets. Feed your anole live crickets, mealworms, and waxworms. Smaller anoles will eat fruit flies, especially the flightless varieties.

FAQ's

Can I keep more than one anole in a terrarium?

Yes, but keep just one male per terrarium. If you have a large terrarium (30 gallons or more) with lots of hiding places, 2 or 3 males will probably tolerate each other if they are of approximately the same size.

What about a water dish?

As long as you mist the terrarium at least once a day, your anole should get sufficient water.

My anole is always dark. Is something wrong?

This is usually a sign of stress. Check the temperature, and the relative humidity should be 60 to 70%. Also, separate the anoles, especially the males. Make certain your fluorescent bulb is full spectrum. Handling your anole also can stress it. Leave it alone for a few days. If there are pesticides in the room, you may have to move the terrarium and start over, discarding the soil, sticks, and plants.

Why isn't my anole eating?

The anole is a cold-blooded animal and doesn't need as much food as a cat or dog. Be patient. If it doesn't begin eating, try a different food; they prefer live foods. Also, don't offer any food item that is larger than half the length of your anole's head. Finally, a dehydrated anole will not eat.

How can I be certain that I am providing the correct temperature range?

Keep 2 thermometers in the terrarium, one in a cool spot and another in a hot spot. Place sticks in the terrarium so the anole can climb toward the lamps. This allows the anole to find the temperature zone it requires.

What plants are best for my terrarium?

Sturdy plants with lots of leaves that create hiding places, including sansevieria, philodendrons, pothos, bromeliads, and ivy.

How can I tell if my anole is a male or female?

Only the males have a dewlap (loose skin hanging under the neck), and they have larger heads in proportion to their body size. Females have a less pointed snout.

I have a male and a female anole. Will they breed?

You can try in the spring or summer. Lower the temperature to 18.5 to 21° C (65 to 70° F) for several weeks. Reduce the photoperiod to 8 hours. It may be necessary to provide a UVB fluorescent lamp. Watch for courtship displays, including display of the dewlap, by the male.

My female anole produced a clutch of eggs. Should I remove her from the terrarium?

Congratulations! No, leave the female with her eggs. She will stay close to them and you may even see her cover the eggs with her body to warm them.

Problems? We hope not, but if so contact us. We want you to have a good experience.

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