

CARE SHEET



ANOLE LIZARD

Green anoles (*A nolis carolinensis*) are common lizards found through out much of the U.S. They are fast-moving insectivores, and can change colors from green to brown. The brown anoles are primarily terrestrial or restrict themselves to the lower branches of bushes, while the green anoles stay higher. Anoles are diurnal (most active during the daytime) and are often seen basking on trees or fences. Many anoles are between eight and 18 cm (3–7 in) in length. Most anoles are said to live between four and eight years. In green anoles, the female is characterized by a pale [dorsal stripe](#) extending from the neck to the tail, a generally smaller body, and a smaller head with a shorter snout. The reddish dewlap under the anoles' chin may be extended, especially by males.

Be sure to handle the anole very carefully. As with most lizards, it may lose its tail if stressed or grabbed. The ability to lose the tail allows them to better escape from predators, and the tail may be re-grown. However, the tail is important to the lizard's mobility and balance; lizards may also become sick due to infections which enter their bodies at the site of the tail wound. Lizards bite in self-defense when they feel threatened. It is difficult to catch the fast-moving anole if it gets away from you, so always handle it with caution.

HOUSING: The LSC provides a *Kritter Keeper* for the animal and should not be placed in direct sunlight because it can become too hot inside the container. Be sure that your classroom temperature is maintained at night and over weekends.

FEEDING: Order crickets from the LSC to feed the anole. You may also feed it other small insects, but you must be sure the insects are collected from areas free of pesticides. The anole should be given 2-3 crickets every other day.

WATER: The misting bottle is essential to mist walls and all interior surfaces daily to provide droplets for Anoles to drink. The water bowl serves as a soaking place and water for crickets. (The cotton is used to keep crickets from drowning and remaining live food).

- If you must handle the Anole or its caging please wash hands with soap and water after handling.
- Students should only work with the animals when **supervised by an adult**.