



Copper Anole Care Sheet:

Species Name:

Anolis cupreus

Adult size:

10-15cm

Lifespan:

4-8 Years

Breeding age:

8-9 Months



The copper anole, scientifically known as *Anolis cupreus*, is a small lizard native to Central America, particularly Nicaragua and Costa Rica. This species is noted for its distinctive coppery-brown colouration, which aids in camouflage among leaf litter and tree bark. Copper anoles are arboreal, spending most of their time in trees, and are insectivorous, feeding primarily on insects and other small invertebrates. They exhibit territorial behaviour and are often seen displaying dewlaps—brightly coloured throat fans—to communicate and assert dominance.

Enclosure:

An 18"x18"x24" terrarium/vivarium is suitable for a pair of copper anoles. Ensure good ventilation while maintaining humidity. Vertical space is essential as anoles are arboreal; and provide branches and plants for climbing.

Substrate:

Use a substrate like coconut fibre, coir or cypress mulch to maintain humidity. Provide a layer of substrate at least 2 inches deep for digging.

Temperature:

Daytime temperature: 24-27°C.

Basking spot: 30°C.

Nighttime temperature: 18-24°C.

Lighting:

Use a 5% UVB light to provide the necessary ultraviolet rays for calcium metabolism.

Humidity:

Maintain humidity levels between 60-70%.

Mist the enclosure regularly, especially in the morning and evening.

Diet:

Feed a varied diet of small insects such as crickets, mealworms, and small roaches.

Offer gut-loaded insects to ensure nutritional value.

Dust insects with calcium and vitamin supplements twice a week.



Hydration:

Provide a shallow water dish for drinking and soaking.

Mist the enclosure to create a humid environment.

Social Behaviour:

Copper anoles are territorial, especially males. Keep only one male per enclosure.

Females can cohabitate, but observe for any signs of aggression.

Handling:

Allow the anole time to acclimate to its new environment before handling.

When handling, do so gently and avoid sudden movements.

Health Care:

Regularly check for signs of illness (loss of appetite, lethargy, abnormal faeces).

Schedule periodic vet check-ups.

Additional Tips:

Live plants not only add to the aesthetic but also provide hiding spots and increase humidity.

Regularly clean the enclosure to prevent the buildup of waste.

Remember, understanding and replicating the natural environment of the Copper anole is crucial for their well-being. Always conduct further research and consult with experienced reptile keepers or veterinarians for the best care practices.