

Green Ameiva

Ameiva ameiva



CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Green ameivas are natives of the rain forests of South America. They are also known as the jungle runner and the dwarf tegu. With their colorful bands of white against a green background, ameivas are a popular species.



Is an ameiva the right companion animal for you?

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Check "Yes" or "No" after reading the following statements:

- I can accommodate a habitat requiring an electrical heat source.
- I want a pet that doesn't need to be cuddled or touched.
- I feel comfortable feeding live food.
- I can commit to providing proper care for an ameiva
- A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for this companion animal.

If you answered "Yes" to these statements, an ameiva may be the right choice for you! Continue reading about how to care for an ameiva and consult with a PETCO associate to learn more. PETCO is committed to responsible companion animal care.

Average Size 14 to 24 inches long **Life Span** 10+ years with proper care

Diet Provide a variety of live insects, including crickets, mealworms, and earthworms, and occasional fruit, such as strawberries, cantaloupe and melons

Feeding Feed adults every other day; feed juveniles daily; provide a multiple vitamin/mineral supplement once or twice a week and calcium daily

Housing Due to the varied sizes and growth rates of reptiles, and their individualized needs, we recommend you consult your qualified reptile veterinarian and a book on this species to determine it's specific housing requirements

Size – Appropriate size and shape habitat to accommodate normal behaviors and exercise; as ameivas grow larger, a larger habitat will be needed; ensure habitat is secured tightly as ameivas will escape the first chance they get

Habitat – Ameivas like to climb, therefore, provide plenty of branches, logs, and non-toxic plants; several places for hiding; a rock or log should be used for basking; maintain humidity at 60% or more by misting daily

Substrate – Layer should be deep, as dwarf tegus like to dig and burrow; use mulch-type commercial material, unbleached paper towels, sterile potting soil, dampened sphagnum moss, bark, aspen shavings, or pelleted paper

Temperature – Temperature gradient is needed (90° F. for the warm end and 80° F. for the cool end, with nighttime temperature at 70° F.); use an incandescent light or ceramic heater as primary heat source

Lighting – Provide needed UVB rays with full spectrum fluorescent light for 12 to 14 hours a day; incandescent bulb is needed for basking area if not using a ceramic heater

Water – A shallow container of chlorine-free water large enough for the ameiva to soak in and drink from; replace water daily

Adult males should be housed separately from one another; do not house different species of reptiles together

Recommended Supplies

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat with secure lid | <input type="checkbox"/> Mist bottle | <input type="checkbox"/> Full spectrum fluorescent light |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Substrate | <input type="checkbox"/> Humidity gauge | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow water container |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Incandescent light or ceramic heater | <input type="checkbox"/> Vitamin/mineral supplement | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-toxic plants, branches, log, or cork bark |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book about ameivas | <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiding areas/basking log |

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Normal Behavior and Interaction

Green ameivas are not naturally tame; significant time must be spent with them to maintain your ability to handle them

Never grab lizards by their tails, as some may detach the tail if pulled

Ameivas are diurnal, meaning they're active during the day

Habitat Maintenance

Change water in the bowl daily; remove feces daily, or as needed

Thoroughly clean the tank at least once week: set ameiva aside in a secure habitat; scrub the tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution; rinse thoroughly with water, removing all smell of bleach; add clean substrate

Grooming and Hygiene

Always wash your hands before and after touching your ameiva or habitat contents to help prevent *Salmonella* and other infectious diseases

Ameivas regularly shed their skin; ensure appropriate humidity of habitat to allow proper shedding; to facilitate shedding, provide a large container or tub in which the ameiva can immerse entire body

Signs of a Healthy Animal

- Active and alert
- Healthy skin
- Clear eyes
- Eats regularly
- Clear nose and vent
- Body and tail are rounded and full

Common Health Issues

Health Issue (alpha)	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Gastro-intestinal Disease	Runny stools, caked or smeared stool around the vent area, and loss of appetite caused by bacterial or parasitic infection.	Consult your exotic animal veterinarian.
Metabolic Bone/Vitamin Deficiency	Inability to absorb calcium due to insufficient UVB light. If untreated, can lead to a disorder characterized by deformities and softened bones. Swollen limbs and lethargy.	Provide ample UVB lighting and consult your exotic animal veterinarian.
Respiratory Disease	Labored breathing, runny nose, swollen eyes. Can be caused by temperatures that are too cold.	Ensure proper lighting, water, and basking conditions. If condition persists, consult your veterinarian.

Red Flags

- Weight loss or decreased appetite
- Swelling
- Bumps, sores, or abrasions on skin
- Paralysis of limbs or tail
- Mucus in mouth or nose
- Lethargy
- Labored breathing
- Abnormal feces

If you notice any of these signs, please contact your exotic animal veterinarian.

Sources

Monitors, Tegus, and Related Lizards by Richard D. Bartlett

The General Care and Maintenance of Popular Monitors & Tegus by Michael Balsa

Note: The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the above sources or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.