

PISCES

PET EMPORIUM

Green Ameiva or Dwarf Tegu

Ameiva Ameiva

Lifespan: Up to 12 years.

Size: 14 to 20 inches

Sexing: Males have looser jowls and throat skin than females.

Enclosure: The minimum size for keeping 1 to 2 Ameivas is a standard 30-gallon breeder all-glass tank (terrarium) with a screen top. For 3 or more Ameivas, a larger tank would be more appropriate. The screen top should fit the tank snugly to prevent the Ameivas from escaping.

Piscus recommends: *ExoTerra All-Glass Terrariums.*

Hiding/Climbing Spots: Ameivas love to climb; provide plenty of plants and branches for your Anole to climb on. Provide a water dish large enough for the animal to curl its entire body into for bathing and to help with shedding.

Humidity: The enclosure should be well ventilated and misted well to keep the humidity high (60% to 80%) and to aid the process of shedding and prevent health problems. Use a hygrometer to maintain a constant humidity level.

Substrate: The bottom of the enclosure should have a barely moistened forest substrate. Do not use sand. Ameivas can ingest sand, causing intestinal blockages. **Piscus recommends:** *Exo-terra Plantation Soil.*

Heat: Maintain a temperature of as low as 24 °C at night to as high as 32 °C during the day (75 °F to 90 °F). Use a heat bulb on one portion of the tank so the animal can escape the warm area if they need to. **Piscus recommends:** *ExoTerra bulbs and fixtures.*

UV Lighting: Use of a full spectrum 5.0 bulb for 12 hours per day is required. Fluorescent bulbs lose effectiveness and need to be replaced every 6-8 months.

Feeding: Feed (4-5-week-old) crickets every other day. Ameivas can be given a pinky every two weeks as a treat once the Ameiva is fully grown.

Vitamins & Supplements: Every other feeding, dust crickets with a quality reptile vitamin and mineral powder. **Piscus recommends:** *Repashy Calcium plus ICB*

Handling: Ameivas are quick moving and prone to bite; it is not advised that you handle them unless absolutely necessary (i.e. moving them to clean their tank). If you do need to handle your Ameiva, grasp him gently in a loose fist.

Safe Handling of Reptiles*: As with all living creatures, reptiles can carry microorganisms (including Salmonella) which can make people ill. To reduce the chances of infection, always follow these safe handling steps:

- Always wash your hands thoroughly after you handle your pet, its food and anything it has touched.
- Keep your pet in a habitat designed for it; do not let your pet reptile roam around the home without proper supervision.
- Keep your pet, its food dishes and cage components out of the kitchen.
- Don't nuzzle or kiss your pet.
- Infants, children under 5 years of age, pregnant women, the elderly, and those with a compromised immune system have a greater risk of infection. Extra caution should be taken when they are in contact with any animal. Children under 5 should handle reptiles only under adult/parent supervision.

Recommended Books: Pisces recommends *Terrarium Animals from A to Z* (Barron's Books).

Recommended Supplies:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Glass terrarium (tall is best). ❑ Screen top ❑ Branches for climbing ❑ Plants (live or artificial) ❑ Misting bottle ❑ Water dish ❑ Plantation Soil | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Heat Bulb & Fixture ❑ Fluorescent Light & Fixture ❑ Repashy Calcium Plus ICB ❑ Crickets ❑ Thermometer ❑ Hygrometer |
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Your New Pet: It is the responsibility of any pet owner to provide their pet with regular veterinary care to maintain their pet's health and to prevent illness.

Should you experience any problems with your new pet, contact Pisces Pet Emporium. We will make every effort to assist you but we may refer you to a qualified veterinarian if the problem is beyond our ability to treat.

A pet is a large responsibility and should not be purchased without due consideration. Pets should never be released into the wild.



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**Safe handling information courtesy of PIJAC Canada*