

Green Ameiva Care Guide

Presented by Custom Creatures Pet Shop

Basic Info

Species: *Ameiva ameiva* (Green Ameiva or Giant Ameiva)

Lifespan: 5-10+ years in captivity

Adult Size: 14-20 inches including tail

Temperament: Active, skittish, and not typically handleable

Best for: Intermediate keepers who want a fast-moving display lizard

Enclosure Setup

Tank Size:

- Minimum: 40-55 gallon tank for one adult
- Horizontal space is important - they are ground-dwelling and fast
- Secure lid is essential, as they are escape artists

Temperature & Heating:

- Basking area: 95-100°F
- Ambient temp: 78-85°F
- Cool side: 72-75°F
- Night: 68-72°F
- Use basking bulb and thermostat to control heat

Humidity:

- Maintain 60-80% humidity
- Mist 1-2x daily and use a substrate that holds moisture
- Use a digital hygrometer to monitor

Lighting:

- UVB required (T5 HO 5.0 or Arcadia 6%)
- Provide 12-hour light/dark cycle
- UVB ensures proper calcium metabolism

Substrate:

- Moisture-retaining substrate like coconut fiber, soil, or cypress mulch
- Depth of 4-6 inches recommended for burrowing

Décor & Enrichment:

- Provide logs, cork bark, rocks, and dense foliage
- Create visual barriers and hiding areas to reduce stress

Diet & Feeding

Feeding Frequency:

- Feed daily for juveniles
- Adults: 4-5x/week

Diet:

- Insects: crickets, dubia roaches, BSFL, hornworms, mealworms
- Occasionally: eggs, pinky mice (sparingly), fruit (banana, papaya, melon)
- Gut-load insects before feeding

Supplementation:

- Calcium with D3: 2-3x/week
- Multivitamin: 1x/week

Water & Hydration:

- Shallow water dish available at all times
- Mist enclosure to allow drinking off leaves and surfaces

Handling & Behavior

Handling:

- Not recommended - very fast and prone to stress
- May tail-whip or drop tail if grabbed

Behavior to Expect:

- Diurnal and highly active
- Will bask, dig, forage, and dart around the enclosure

- Territorial toward other ameivas - best kept singly or in carefully managed groups

Supplies Checklist

- 40-55+ gallon horizontal tank
- UVB lighting and basking bulb
- Digital thermometer and hygrometer
- Moisture-retaining substrate
- Misting system or spray bottle
- Variety of gut-loaded feeder insects
- Calcium and multivitamin supplements
- Secure hides and foliage for cover

Contact Us

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We're here to help!