herpy

IGUANAS

Knight Anole

Anolis equestris

Anolis equestris is the world's largest anole: a powerful, climbing, diurnal lizard from Cuba that grows to 35-50 cm in length and lives high up in the trees. It is green, but can change to greyish brown. The species needs a tall, densely planted enclosure with warmth, high humidity and UVB. It bites hard and is an animal to look at, not to handle.

Family: Dactyloidae Former name: *Anolius rhodolaemus; Deiroptyx equestris*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**35-50 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-16 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Dry forest and rainforest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 60 × 120 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-29 °C**
Basking spot	**32-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-24 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects, fruit and vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1 eggs**
Incubation	**35-49 days** at 28-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix III**
EU annex	**Annex C**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	*Anolis equestris* is a high-climbing species, and the enclosure must be taller than it is wide.
TEMPERATURE	The air should be 24-29 °C during the day, and at night it may fall to 18-24 °C. The basking spot should be a branch at the top on the warm side with a surface temperature of 32-35 °C, measured with an infrared thermometer.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The species comes from humid tropical forest and needs 60-80 % humidity. Mist heavily morning and evening so that walls, plants and branches are wet, and use a moisture-retaining substrate.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Anolis equestris* is diurnal and needs warmth, light and UVB. Use a T5 HO tube (Ferguson zone 3) over the warm side so that the animal can bask 25-40 cm from the tube, and provide shade to retreat into.
FEEDING	The species is first and foremost insectivorous. Offer a varied selection of live insects of a suitable size: large crickets, cockroaches, silkworms, mealworms, morio worms and wax moth larvae.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The male shows off with the dewlap, push-ups and a brighter green sheen. When threatened the animal turns sideways, opens its mouth and spreads the dewlap and dorsal crest.
NATIVE RANGE	Cuba.