

Corn Snake

PROFILE

Common Name: Corn Snake

Latin name: Pantherophis guttatus

Native to: Southeast and Central US

Size: 4 – 6ft

Life span: 10 – 15 years

HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

Environment:

Arid woodland, dry grasslands and rocky outcrops. Named corn snakes originally as they were found throughout corn fields in their native US.

Substrate:

We recommend lignocel snake bedding for corn snakes as it is very easy to keep clean, gives off minimal dust and holds its shape well as corns enjoy burrowing. There are many different substrates that could be used for them. Various desert soil mixes, dried compost mix and corn cob to name a few.

Food and Water:

Water should be available at all times in a bowl big enough for the corn to bathe in. This will aid in shedding and will keep the snake hydrated. The water should be changed every other day or as required.

Corn snakes are carnivorous, as are all snakes, and should be fed accordingly. Prey items should be approximately 3 times the width of the snake's head and you should be able to see a definitive bulge in the body once swallowed.

Appropriate prey items include mice, rats, multimammates, chicks, quail, gerbils and hamsters.

Heat/Light Requirements:

As with the majority of other species of snake, Corn snakes do not require any additional lighting, UV or otherwise. They are very loose in their behaviours and can vary dramatically depending on

time of year, temperature or even mood. They can be active throughout the day, become nocturnal or even just become active at dawn or dusk. A set photo period is still recommended to aid the snake with a natural sleep cycle using either a low powered UV or LED lighting for 10-12 hours a day.

Corn snakes will require 24 hour heating by use of a heat mat or basking spot light at one end of the enclosure making it the 'hot spot', the opposite being the 'cold side'. Being ectothermic, the corn snake will need to move between hot and cold environments to regulate their body temperature, a good heat gradient will allow them to do this easily and comfortably.

Night time temperatures can be allowed to drop by 3-5°C. Below are ideal temperature gradients for your corn snake:

Day (cold side): 22-25°C

Day (hot spot): 27-29°C

Night: 22-24°C

Please note that this care sheet is only for your basic husbandry knowledge and that it is always recommended that you do further reading.

FURTHER READING

www.reptilesmagazine.com

www.reptilecare.com

Any Problems?

Give us a ring ASAP on 0121 744 1300

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