



Corn Snake Care Sheet:

Species Name:

Pantherophis guttatus

Adult size:

24-72"

Lifespan:

20-25 Years

Breeding age:

18-24 Months



Corn snakes, native to North America, are non-venomous and belong to the Colubrid family. Their natural habitat spans from the southeastern United States to New Jersey, including Florida, Georgia, and Louisiana. Corn snakes are renowned for their vibrant colours and patterns, which vary across different regions. In the wild, they inhabit a range of environments, from forests and woodlands to grasslands and farmlands.

Housing:

Enclosure: A spacious terrarium or vivarium is essential. A 24"x18"x18" vivarium is suitable for hatchlings, but adult corn snakes require at least a 36"x18"x18" vivarium. Ensure secure ventilation and escape-proof locks.

Substrate: Use a substrate like aspen bedding, cypress mulch, or coconut coir to mimic their natural environment. Maintain a depth that allows burrowing.

Hides: Provide multiple hiding spots on both the warm and cool sides of the enclosure. This helps reduce stress and provides a sense of security.

Temperature and Lighting:

Temperature: Maintain a temperature gradient. The warm side should be around 29-32°C (85-90°F) while the cool side can be around 24-27°C (75-80°F). Use an under-tank heating pad or heat lamp to achieve this gradient.

Lighting: Corn snakes are primarily crepuscular, meaning they are most active during dawn and dusk. A natural light cycle is sufficient, but you can use a low-wattage UVB light for added enrichment.

Humidity:

Maintaining the right humidity levels is crucial for the health of your corn snake. While corn snakes are generally adaptable, it's important to provide a humidity gradient within the enclosure.

Keep the overall humidity levels in the range of 40% to 60%. This range simulates the conditions of their natural habitat, which includes varying humidity levels in different environments.

Humid Hide: Create a designated humid hide on the cooler side of the enclosure. This hide should have a substrate that retains moisture well, such as sphagnum moss or coconut coir. This area allows your snake to retreat when shedding its skin or when it needs a boost in humidity.

Shedding Assistance: If your corn snake is having difficulty shedding, increasing the humidity temporarily can be beneficial. You can do this by lightly misting the enclosure or providing a damp box.

Hygrometer: Use a reliable hygrometer to monitor humidity levels accurately. This tool will help you make adjustments as needed, ensuring your snake's comfort and preventing respiratory issues.

Feeding:

Diet: Corn snakes are carnivorous, and their diet consists mainly of appropriately sized mice or rats. Hatchlings can be fed pinkie mice, while adults may consume larger prey. Feed juveniles every 5-7 days, and adults every 10-14 days.



Handling:

Handle your corn snake regularly to build trust and reduce stress. Avoid handling immediately after feeding to prevent regurgitation.

Health and Maintenance:

Health Check: Regularly inspect your snake for signs of shedding problems, mites, or any health issues. Ensure proper humidity during shedding.

Shedding: Provide a humid hide during shedding to aid in the process. If your snake is having difficulty shedding, consult a vet.

Cleanliness: Keep the enclosure clean by removing waste promptly, and perform a more thorough clean at least once a month.

Behaviour:

Corn snakes are generally docile, making them excellent pets for both beginners and experienced reptile keepers. They are known for their climbing abilities, so provide branches or other climbing structures.

Successfully caring for a corn snake involves creating a habitat that mimics their natural environment and maintaining optimal conditions for their physical and mental well-being. Regular observation and interaction will foster a strong bond between you and your captivating serpent companion. Always consult with a veterinarian experienced in reptile care for specific health concerns or questions.