

Corn Snake Caresheet

Background Information

The Corn Snake or Red Rat Snake is a colubrid snake from America. Their geographical range starts from the Florida Keys and can head as far north as Carolina and as far west as Texas. The name "corn" snake came from American tales of this species being commonly found in farmer's cornfields, hunting the rodents that fed on the corn. Growing up to 6ft long it is consider a moderate sized snake however the average tends to be about 4ft. This constrictor species of snake is an ideal starter with its placid nature and hardiness in captivity, they're more likely to run than bite and assuming their housing requirements are met, its quite easy and great fun to keep a corn snake.

Level of Experience	Beginner
Habitat	Agricultural areas, woodlands rocky outcrops,
Life Span	18 years
Active Time of Day	Crepuscular
Natural Prey	Rodents
Terrestrial / Semi Arboreal / Arboreal / Aquatic / Fossorial	Terrestrial although will sometimes climb
Reproduction	Mate: Spring Lay: Summer
Clutch Size	Average is normally 10 – 20 but can be up to 40 or as few as 3 depending on females size
Breeding Weights / Length / Age	Males: 160g+ / 3ft / 2 years of age Females: 300g+ / 3ft / 3 years of age
Brumation Time	2 months
Brumation Temperature	12 – 18 'C
Incubation Time	2 months
Incubation Temperature	26 – 28 'C

There are 5 types of corn snake colourations you can find in the wild:

Classic (Wildtype) Okeetee Amelanistic Anerythristic Miami

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Captive Requirements and Welfare

Corn snakes like other reptiles need a heated environment to suit their needs and behaviour. They rely on external heat sources to regulate their body temperature (heat mats and bulbs will provide sufficient heat), therefore it is important to have a cool and a warm side in your vivarium. All snakes go through similar patterns in their lifetime and the corn is no exception. Reptiles need to shed their skin in order to grow, their appearance in colour will change and they become much more shy and secretive in their behaviour, sometimes even stop feeding during this process. This is a natural thing and nothing to worry about and it's best to leave them alone, if you're lucky you may actually catch your snake shedding its skin. Some corns will also go off their food during winter, again, this is completely normal. Record checks are always good to do so you can monitor your snake's health. Weight, length, age and shed dates are the attributes to record especially if you plan to breed in the future.

Vivarium size	30x30x30cm for hatchling 3ft x 1.5ft x 1.5ft for adult
Daytime Temperature (cool – warm)	22 – 30 'C
Nighttime Temperature	20 – 24 'C
Heating Equipment (on timers)	Spot bulb during day, heat mat at night
Substrate	Most Natural: Orchid Bark Alternatives: Beech Chip or Aspen
Hides	2 at minimum: one on each side a 3 rd moss hide during shedding would be beneficial
Decor	Branches and fake plants allow the opportunity to climb and aids shedding
Water	Fresh water topped up when needed clean out water bowl every few days to prevent slime build up
Food (Feeding)	Pinkies for hatchlings then increase the size as they grow. Always take the snake out and feed in a separate box to prevent substrate being eaten.
Cleaning	Spot pick weekly, full clean monthly

