



Practice Limited to Birds, Reptiles and Exotics

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AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES
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Corn Snake Care Sheet

Corn Snakes (*Pantherophis guttata*) are primarily ground dwellers, originating from pine forests and rocky hills in the Southeastern United States. After many generations of selective breeding, domesticated corn snakes are found in a wide variety of different colors and patterns.

Adult corn snakes can reach a length of 4-6 feet and live an average of 10 years. Corn snakes are a good beginner snake because they are non-venomous, generally calm and docile, and easy to handle and care for. They are most active at dawn, dusk, and during the night. They are solitary animals so they are best housed alone.

HOUSING: A Corn Snake should be housed in at least a 20-gallon tank with a secure top. Aspen or cypress shavings are often used as substrate to allow the snake to burrow. Other suitable substrates are newspaper, reptile carpet, or paper towels. Hiding places are necessary, as corn snakes become stressed if they cannot hide. Branches should be available for climbing and resting. Ultra Violet (UV) light is recommended for corn snakes, but not essential. UV bulbs need to be changed every 6 months.

TEMPERATURE: A temperature gradient from 70°-85°F should be maintained. Heat may be provided by special reptile heating pads or incandescent light bulbs in reflector hoods and placed to avoid direct contact with the snake. One end of the enclosure should be maintained at a higher temperature for basking.

HUMIDITY: Normal household humidity (30-50%) is usually fine, but it may need to be higher if your snake has trouble shedding. Water should always be provided, and can be offered in a bowl large enough for them to submerge their whole body in.

DIET: Mice are good sources of quality food. Live rodents should not be left unattended with any snake, as bite wounds can occur; pre-killed food items are recommended.

- Hatchling snakes – feed one or two 1-2 day old pinkie mice every 4-5 days
- Juvenile snakes – feed one or two fuzzies or hoppers every 5-7 days
- Adult snakes – feed one or two adult mice every 7-10 days

VETERINARY EXAMINATION: It is highly recommended to have all newly acquired pets checked by a qualified reptile knowledgeable veterinarian. All reptiles should have annual exams and be checked for intestinal parasites.

We strongly recommend annual health examinations on all exotics!

