



# Corn Snake



**Origin:** Southeastern & central US

**Size:** 4-6 feet long (full size in 2-3 years)

**Life Span:** 20+ years with proper care

## Heat and Lighting:

- Use an under-tank heater to provide warmth
- Provide 8-12 hours of white light daily (natural – via a window - or artificial)
- A red heat lamp on top of the screen can be used to supplement heat in drafty areas, but is not necessary if the room is consistently warm.

## Tank setup:

- A 10-20 gallon tank is recommended; you can upgrade your tank size as the snake grows.
- Use aspen or reptile bark substrate, paper towels and newspaper are also options.
- Provide a hiding area and a branch or décor for them to climb on.
- Provide a hide box filled with moist moss to assist with shedding properly.

**Diet:** Feed hatchlings and juveniles once per week; adolescents and adults can be feed biweekly

- Corn snakes happily eat thawed (previously frozen) mice. Soak a mouse in hot tap water (never boiling) until soft.
- It is recommended that you feed your snake outside of its enclosure – such as in a plastic box/bin. This teaches the snake to associate the plastic bin with feeding and aggression, and their home with calmness.
- Simply hold the mouse with tongs in front of the head of the snake, shaking gentle until it strikes and grabs the rodent. Never jerk the food away.
- Avoid handling (besides moving back to tank) after feeding, at least until the next day.

## Water and Humidity:

- Water should be available at all times, and cleaned regularly.
- The tank should be dry except for the moss box to keep humidity low.

**Temperament & Handling:** Active but gentle and easily tamed!

- Hatchlings can be nervous and defensive, and it is normal for them to flee.
- Give your snake some time to settle in before handling.
- Handle your snake calmly and confidently so that he/she feel safe.

**Shedding:** As your snake gets ready to shed, their eyes will turn a milky blue/grey and their skin will dull in color and develop a whitish sheen. Avoid handling if possible during this time.