



Corn Snake

(*elaphe guttata*)

Facts:

Average adult size: **4 to 6 feet long**
 Average life span: **up to 20 years with proper care**
 Diet: **Carnivore**



Corn Snakes are named for the pattern of their belly scales that resembles maize, an ancestor of modern day corn. They are known to be good climbers and escape artists.

Will reach adult size in 2-3 years, under ideal conditions; upgrade habitat size as your snake grows.

Feeding & Nutrition:

Diet

- Appropriately sized frozen rodents, thawed/warmed to above room temperature.
- Do not use a microwave to defrost frozen rodents and do not prepare them in the same area that you prepare food. If it is unavoidable, be sure to thoroughly disinfect the area.
- If feeding your snake live rodents, do not leave them unattended. Live rodents can injure the snake, sometimes fatally.

Feeding

- Feed juveniles once a week, adults every one to two weeks.
- Feed in a separate tank so that your snake doesn't associate your hand or the habitat being opened with feeding.
- Fresh, clean, chlorine-free water should be available at all times in a large enough bowl for your ball python to soak in.

Housing:

- **Size** - appropriate size habitat based on size. The larger the better.
- **Substrate** – aspen shavings, mulch-type such as coconut fiber bedding or reptile bark; dampened sphagnum moss. Avoid gravel and artificial turf (too harsh for skin).
- **Habitat** - provide a hiding area just large enough for your snake to fit inside and a branch or decor to climb on. Maintain 40- 60% humidity; higher during shedding.
- **Temperature** - temperature gradient (85°F for the warm end and 70° for the cool end); recommend radiant heat; use an incandescent light as primary heat source, use under tank heater as secondary source.
- **Lighting** - snakes need a photoperiod light cycle; provide 8-12 hours of light daily. Don't leave white light on at all times; a black or infrared light should be used at night.
- Adult Corn Snakes can be housed together but do not house different snake species together.

Habitat Maintenance

- Thoroughly clean and disinfect the habitat at least once a week: place snake in a secure habitat; scrub the tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution; rinse thoroughly with water, removing all traces of bleach smell; dry the tank and furnishings completely and add clean substrate.

Note: The information in this Care Guide is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

Care Guide



Care:

Grooming & Hygiene

- Snakes will regularly shed their skin; ensure humidity of habitat is at appropriate level to allow snake to shed properly.
- Never try to remove eye caps by yourself. Seek veterinary care.

Health

- Active and alert
- Clear eyes (except when shedding)
- Eats regularly
- Healthy skin
- Regularly sheds skin in one complete piece
- Free of mites and ticks

Normal Behavior

- As your snake gets ready to shed, their eyes will turn a milky blue/grey over the course of a few days and their body color will start to dull and develop a whitish sheen. May become irritable; avoid handling if possible.
- Appetite may vary.

Recommended Supplies:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Size Habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Climbing Decor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food | <input type="checkbox"/> Under Tank Heater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Substrate | <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moss | <input type="checkbox"/> Humidity Gauge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Dish | <input type="checkbox"/> Heat Fixture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hide | <input type="checkbox"/> Heat Bulb |

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