



**Jungle Bob's Care Sheet**  
**Corn Snakes**  
*(Pantherophis guttatus)*

**General Information**

For a long time, the Corn Snake has been widely regarded as the best pet snake. As compared to the other top pet snake (The Ball Python) their care differs slightly, as does their personality.

This US native ranges from southern New Jersey to Florida and Texas, where it inhabits forest edges, woodlots, overgrown fields, and farms.

Corn Snakes vary in color from red to orange, yellow, or gray, and bear black-edged red, brown, or gray blotches. Hobbyists have produced a stunning array of colors and patterns through selective breeding. Adults average 2-4 ½ feet in length, with rare individuals just topping 5 feet.

**Housing**

Hatchlings may be raised in minimum of a 10 Gallon terrarium (although 20 Gallon Long terrariums (30x12) are ideal) while adults, depending upon their size, require a 40 Gallon Breeder (36x18). The screen top should always be secured with clips or locks. Driftwood serves well as basking sites, and a cave should always be available. Cypress or Aspen bedding works best for a substrate as these animals like to burrow, especially when they are young.

Temperatures should range from a basking site of around 90 F with a low temperature never going much lower than 70 F. Provide your pet with the largest home possible, so that a thermal gradient (areas of different temperatures that allow the snake to regulate its metabolism) can be established. We suggest using a heat bulb during the day, and a heat pad (under tank heater) be on 24/7. Humidity isn't much of a concern, but lightly misting the terrarium a few times a week is a good idea.

## **Diet**

Corn snakes feed on pinkie and fuzzy mice as babies and juveniles. As your snake grows it will soon move up to adult mice. We recommend that you feed baby and juvenile Corn Snakes one time per week. Adults can be fed once every 7-10 days to maintain proper body weight. Corn Snakes typically will not eat when they are preparing to shed. Live rodents can injure or kill your snake and should, therefore, we strongly suggest using frozen rodents.

## **Cleaning and Handling**

The terrarium should be cleaned as necessary. Any fecal matter or uneaten food should be removed daily. The substrate should be completely changed once each month. The inside of the terrarium can be scrubbed with an appropriate reptile cage cleaner.

Corn Snakes are generally quite docile and easy to handle, but like all reptiles they can bite when threatened; the snake's head should not be allowed near one's face. Always wash your hands before and after handling any animal.

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