

PISCES

PET EMPORIUM



Corn Snake

Elaphe guttata

Lifespan: Up to 20 years.

Size: Adults can reach 5 to 6 feet in length.

Sexing: There are four different methods of sexing snakes: comparing tail lengths, popping, candling and probing. An experienced veterinarian or breeder should do popping or probing.

Enclosure: Corn snakes do best in a longer tank that provides them with room to roam around and exercise. A 20-gallon tank is adequate for a single adult but a larger tank is better. For a baby or hatchling, a standard 10-gallon tank with screen top will do. Corn snakes can escape from regular screen tops so the lid needs to be secured with a lock or a heavy object on the top of the tank. ***Pisces recommends: ExoTerra All-Glass Terrariums.***

Hiding/Climbing Spots: A snake cave or other hiding spot should be provided.

Humidity: The enclosure should be well-ventilated and misted to keep humidity high (75% to 80%) and aid the process of shedding, and to maintain good health. A moss hide helps maintain an area with high humidity for when the snake is shedding. Use a hygrometer to maintain a consistent humidity level. Provide a water dish large enough for the snake to curl its entire body into for bathing and to help with shedding.

Substrate: Repta-liner is the least expensive and most convenient substrate. You can also use wood chips designed for snakes. Avoid the use of gravel or other substrates that they might ingest. ***Pisces recommends: Repta-Liner.***

Heat: Maintain a temperature of as low as 21°C at night to as high as 29°C during the day (70°F to 85°F). Snakes cannot sustain all bodily functions if kept at a constant temperature. Use a heat bulb on one end of the tank to create a temperature gradient. ***Pisces recommends: ExoTerra bulbs and fixtures.***

UV Lighting: Use of a full-spectrum 5.0 bulb for 12 hours per day is recommended. Fluorescent bulbs lose effectiveness over time and need to be replaced every 6-8 months.

Feeding: Feed juveniles about once a week. Adults will eat 1 to 3 adult mice every 7 to 14 days. Corn snakes normally eat live prey, but they can be switched to frozen food (be sure that the food is thoroughly thawed before offering it to your snake). Feeding your snake in a separate tank prevents it from associating your hand or its home tank with feeding. Do not feed prey larger than the maximum girth of the snake.

Vitamins & Supplements: A multivitamin, used for every second feeding, is recommended for optimal health. ***Pisces recommends: Rep-Cal Multivitamins.***

Handling: When handling a baby or juvenile Corn Snake it is best to pick them up slowly but confidently. If you hesitate or are nervous the snake might be frightened. Corn snakes are generally docile but can behave aggressively if they feel threatened. If this happens when you are handling your snake, return it to its tank immediately. Avoid touching the snake's head until it is comfortable with you.

Other: Corn snakes are available in many different colors.

Safe Handling of Reptiles*: As with all living creatures, reptiles can carry microorganisms (including Salmonella) which can make people ill. To reduce the chances of infection, always follow these safe handling steps:

- Always wash your hands thoroughly after you handle your pet, its food and anything it has touched.
- Keep your pet in a habitat designed for it; do not let your pet reptile roam around the home without proper supervision.
- Keep your pet, its food dishes and cage components out of the kitchen.
- Don't nuzzle or kiss your pet.
- Infants, children under 5 years of age, pregnant women, the elderly, and those with a compromised immune system have a greater risk of infection. Extra caution should be taken when they are in contact with any animal. Children under 5 should handle reptiles only under adult/parent supervision.

Recommended Books: ***Pisces recommends Corn Snakes (Barron's books).***

Recommended Supplies:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Glass terrarium (long is best) ❑ Screen top (if not included with terrarium) ❑ Cave ❑ Misting bottle ❑ Water dish ❑ Repta-Liner or substrate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Heat bulb & fixture ❑ Fluorescent light & fixture ❑ Multivitamins ❑ Feeder mice ❑ Thermometer ❑ Hygrometer |
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Your New Pet: It is the responsibility of any pet owner to provide their pet with regular veterinary care to maintain their pet's health and to prevent illness.

Should you experience any problems with your new pet, contact Pisces Pet Emporium. We will make every effort to assist you but we may refer you to a qualified veterinarian if the problem is beyond our ability to treat.

A pet is a large responsibility and should not be purchased without due consideration. Pets should never be released into the wild.



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