



Wet Pets N Critters

Corn Snake Care Guide

(*Pantherophis guttatus*)

Corn snakes are one of the most popular pet snakes, known for their calm nature, beautiful color patterns, and manageable size. With proper care, they can live **15–20 years** in captivity.

Housing

- **Enclosure Size:**
 - A **20-gallon long tank** is suitable for a young corn snake. Adults do best in a **40-gallon or larger tank**.
 - **Enclosure Type:**
 - A **secure, escape-proof tank** with a tight-fitting screen lid is essential.
 - **Substrate:**
 - Use **aspen bedding, coconut fiber, or reptile-safe substrate** (available at Wet Pets N Critters). Avoid cedar or pine bedding.
 - **Hides:**
 - Provide at least **two hides**—one on the warm side and one on the cool side.
 - **Decor:**
 - Add **branches, artificial plants, and climbing decor** for enrichment.
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Temperature & Heating

- **Basking Spot:** 85–90°F
- **Cool Side:** 75–80°F
- **Nighttime Temperature:** Can drop to 70–75°F
- **Heating:** Use an **under-tank heat mat** (with thermostat) or a **ceramic heat emitter** (both available at Wet Pets N Critters). Avoid heat rocks.
- Use a **digital thermometer** to monitor temperatures.

Lighting

Corn snakes do not require UVB lighting, but a **12-hour light/dark cycle** using natural room light or a low-wattage bulb is recommended.

Humidity

- **40–60%** humidity is ideal. Mist lightly if needed and provide a **humidity hide** (lined with damp moss) to help with shedding.

Diet

Corn snakes are **carnivores**. Feed appropriately sized **frozen/thawed mice** (available at Wet Pets N Critters).

- **Hatchlings:** Every 5–7 days
- **Juveniles:** Every 7–10 days
- **Adults:** Every 10–14 days

Prey should be about the same width as the widest part of the snake's body.

Water

Provide a **shallow water dish** with fresh water at all times. Change water daily.

Cleaning & Maintenance

- Spot-clean waste as needed.
- Replace substrate every 4–6 weeks.
- Clean the enclosure with a **reptile-safe cleaner** (available at Wet Pets N Critters) monthly.
- Clean the water dish daily.

Handling

Corn snakes are generally calm and tolerate handling well. Handle gently and regularly to maintain a tame temperament. Always support their body fully. Avoid handling right after feeding.

Health Tips

A healthy corn snake should:

- Be alert and active
- Eat regularly
- Shed in one complete piece
- Have clear eyes and smooth skin

If you notice refusal to eat (outside of shedding), swelling, or breathing issues, consult a reptile-savvy veterinarian.

Supplies Checklist (Available at Wet Pets N Critters)

- 20–40 gallon tank
- Secure screen lid
- Under-tank heat mat with thermostat or ceramic heat emitter
- Digital thermometer
- Aspen bedding or coconut fiber
- Hides (2 or more)
- Water dish
- Climbing decor

- Frozen/thawed mice
- Humidity hide (optional)
- Reptile-safe cleaner