

# Corn Snake Care: The Complete Recovery Standard

---

## 1. The Enclosure: Security & Space

---

While juveniles can start in 20-gallon tanks, adults require a minimum of **4x2x2ft enclosure** to allow for natural movement and thermoregulation. Enclosures must have a locking, secure lid as they are notorious escape artists. Provide secure branches for climbing and a minimum of two hides.

## 2. Thermal Gradient & Humidity

---

Maintain a cool side of 70–75°F and a warm basking spot of 85–88°F. Use a thermostat with **all** heat sources to prevent thermal burns. Overhead heat (DHP or CHE) is preferred. Maintain 40–50% humidity, bumping slightly to 60% during shedding. Use a digital hygrometer/thermometer.

## 3. Nutrition: Consistency & Safety

---

Offer humanely euthanized, frozen-thawed rodents. **Never feed live prey**, which can inflict life-threatening bite wounds. Establish a routine: Juveniles: every 7–10 days. Adults: every 14–21 days. Wait 48 hours after feeding before handling to prevent regurgitation.

***THE REALITY CHECK:** Corn snakes are a 15–20 year commitment. They are secretive, stress-prone animals that require precise temperatures to digest food properly. Do not treat them as 'starter pets'—they are living animals that require specialized, long-term care.*

## 4. Health: Recovery Red Flags

---

- **Respiratory Infection:** Wheezing, clicking, or open-mouth breathing indicates an infection from poor ventilation or low temps.
- **Stuck Shed:** Indicates inadequate humidity. Never "peel" the shed; address the environment first.
- **Regurgitation:** A major medical crisis. Do not feed for 10–14 days and consult an exotic vet.

## 5. Enrichment & Sustainability

---

**Sustainability tip:** Use clean, food-safe plastic containers or repurposed ceramic pots as secure, easy-to-sanitize hides. Use sturdy natural branches from safe woods to create climbing opportunities.

Recovery Pets | Rescue Like Never Before

For more guides and resource kits, visit: [recoverypets.net](https://recoverypets.net)