



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

### General Information

The Corn Snake has the distinction of being one of the Western Hemisphere's most beautifully-colored reptiles and the world's most popular pet snake. If ever there was a perfect reptile pet, this gorgeous creature is it!

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 over 25 color varieties, as well as hybrids with King, Gopher and Black Rat Snakes. Adults average 2-4 ½ feet in length, with rare individuals just topping 5 feet.

### Housing

Hatchlings may be raised in 5-10 gallon aquariums, while adults, depending upon their size, require a 20-40 gallon tank. 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, aspen or terrarium liners](#) may be used as substrates.

Temperatures should range from 77-82 F, with a basking site of 90 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. You can reach the desired temperatures with [Jungle Bob's Basking](#) and [Night Spot Bulbs](#).

Reptile Heat Pads are also useful for creating basking sites, and as a night-time heat source. A great way to determine if your terrarium is at the correct temperature is to use the [Zoo Med Digital Terrarium Thermometer](#). The tank may be misted lightly on occasion, but otherwise should remain dry.

### **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. Rodents can injure or kill your snake and should, therefore, be purchased frozen rather than live.

### **Cleaning and Handling**

The terrarium should be cleaned as necessary. Any fecal matter or uneaten food should be removed daily. A [Reptile Scoop](#) will simplify this task. The substrate should be completely changed once each month. The inside of the terrarium can be scrubbed with an appropriate reptile cage cleaner; we recommend [Natural Chemistry's Healthy Habitat](#).

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.

### **Fun Fact**

Corn Snakes are often common in cornfields and near grain storage areas, drawn by rodents, and it is for this habit that they were named (according to older resources). An alternative theory is that the pattern of the belly scales brings variegated corn to mind.

**Jungle Bob's Reptile World**  
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[www.JungleBobsReptileWorld.com](http://www.JungleBobsReptileWorld.com)

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