

Corn Snake



Overview

- Ease of Care: Beginner
- Size: 120-185cm+ (48-72")
- Life Span: Up to 20 years
- Diet: Rodents
- Temperament: Friendly
- Background Temp: 23.3-31°C (74-88°F)
- HOT Spot: 30-31°C (86-88°F)

Equipment Needed

- Housing: Terrarium or Vivarium
- Heating: Heat Mat or Ceramic Heat Bulb
- Lighting: UV Tube or LED (Light Cycle: 12 hours of light)
- Substrate: HabiStat Snake Bedding, HabiStat Lignocel or Arcadia EarthMix Arid
- Water: Water Dish

Top Tips

- ✓ After feeding let your snake digest its meal for 2 days before handling him.
- ✓ If your snake refuses to feed try offering a smaller or larger food item.
- ✓ A Corn Snake will normally refuse its food when it is about to shed so wait until the snake has fully shed before offering food.
- ✓ A bad shed is normally a sign of something wrong in the snake's environment.
- ✓ If your snake has a bad shed try soaking it in lukewarm water and removing any left-over skin.

Housing

A relevant sized Terrainium or Vivarium is the perfect housing solution for a Corn Snake (*Pantherophis guttatus*) throughout its whole life.

Baby Corn Snake:

Monkfield Terrainium, L46 x D29 x H15cm (18 x 11.5 x 6")
(DVTE18*)

Monkfield Terrainium, L90 x D38 x H20cm (36 x 15 x 8")
(DVTE36*)

Monkfield Standard Vivarium, L46 x D38 x H38cm (18 x 15 x 15")
(DVF18 / DVF18B / DVF18BL*)

Juvenile/Sub-Adult Corn Snake:

Monkfield Terrainium, L90 x D38 x H20cm (36 x 15 x 8")
(DVTE36)

Monkfield Standard Vivarium, L91 x D38 x H38cm (36 x 15 x 15")
(DVF36 / DVF36B / DVF36BL)

Adult Corn Snake:

Monkfield Terrainium, L90 x D38 x H20cm (36 x 15 x 8")
(DVTE36)

Monkfield Standard Vivarium, L91 x D38 x H38cm (36 x 15 x 15")
(DVF36 / DVF36B / DVF36BL)

Monkfield Standard Vivarium, L122 x D61 x H61cm (48 x 24 x 24")
(DVF4824 / DVF4824B / DVF4824BL)

*We recommend using a smaller enclosure for feeding baby snakes in, such as a Hatchling Tub.

Environment

Heating

Corn Snakes are an ectothermic (cold-blooded) animal and take all of their heat requirements from external sources. Different heat sources are required depending on the type of housing selected.

Heating a Terrainium

To replicate these conditions in a terrainium, we recommend using a heat mat that is thermostatically controlled as a heat source. The heat mat should be inserted into the glass holder located in the base of the Terrainium to ensure that the Corn Snake does not come directly into contact with it.

The heat mat should be used in conjunction with a heat mat thermostat.

Heat mat thermostats are designed to regulate temperatures using a thermostat probe (also known as a sensor). Correct placement of the probe is critical to avoid overheating and injury to the snake. Insert the probe through the back of the terrainium via the rubber grommet and tape directly onto the glass panel above the heat mat. The probe cable should be taped 2-5cm (1-2") back from the actual probe sensor to allow for a correct temperature reading and avoid it becoming dislodged. Carefully place the substrate on top.

Heating a Vivarium

To provide an appropriate heat source in a Vivarium we recommend using a ceramic heat bulb that is thermostatically controlled.

The ceramic heat bulb should be set up using a ceramic bulb holder, which can be hung from the roof of the vivarium, approximately 15-20cms from one side.

The ceramic heat bulb should be used in conjunction with a pulse thermostat.

Pulse thermostats are designed to regulate temperatures using a thermostat probe (also known as a sensor). Correct placement of the probe is critical to avoid overheating and injury to the snake.

The probe should be positioned on the floor in the basking area and the probe cable should be taped to the floor 2-8cm (1-3") back from the actual probe sensor. This will ensure an accurate temperature reading and prevent the probe becoming dislodged. Carefully place the substrate on top of the probe cable leaving just the probe above the surface.

A Spotlight Guard should be used to surround the ceramic heat bulb to prevent the animal coming into direct contact with the heat source.

Temperature and Monitoring

As a rough guide, daytime temperatures should be between 23.3-31°C (74-88°F) with the hot end up to 30-31°C (86-88°F) going down to 23.3°C (74°F) at the cooler end of the enclosure. Night-time temperatures should be 23.3-30°C (74-86°F).

Make sure temperatures are checked regularly to ensure that there are no extreme fluctuations.

Lighting

A UV light can be provided but it is not essential to the Corn Snakes wellbeing. If a UV light is used, ensure that it is fitted correctly and securely to avoid any injuries to the snake. LED lighting can also be used to provide a day/night light cycle for the Corn Snake.

Substrates and Decoration

Personal choice will dictate how you decorate your terrarium or vivarium but we recommend the following as a guide:

- 1) Substrates: A dry and non-dusty substrate such as HabiStat Snake Bedding, HabiStat Lignocel & Arcadia EarthMix Arid, that is easy to spot clean.
- 2) Wood for hiding under, crawling on and to help with shedding.
- 3) Artificial or live plants for decoration and to provide darker areas for the Corn Snake to hide away.
- 4) Hide to allow the snake to hide away if it chooses to and give it an area to feel safe and secure.

Diet and Water

Hatchlings through to Adults should be offered appropriately sized defrosted mice. As a general rule, the feed size offered to your snake should be no larger in diameter than 1-1.5 times the width of the snake at its widest point. Fresh clean water must be accessible at all times. The water source should be positioned at the cool end of the environment to prevent the water from evaporating quickly and causing an unwanted humidity increase.

Supplementation

Corn Snakes do not require any form of supplementation as long as your frozen food is purchased from a reputable supplier.

Health and Hygiene

We recommend the following cleaning routine to keep your snake healthy and happy:

	Water	Substrate	Enclosure
Daily	Change old water for fresh water	Spot clean	Check vents on enclosure are not blocked and allow air to pass through freely
Weekly	Disinfect water bowl or dish	Agitate substrate to prevent any bacterial build up and to allow any dirty bedding to be removed	Wipe down glass with a reptile safe disinfectant
Monthly		Take out old substrate and replace with new substrate	Wipe down inside the enclosure and disinfect décor with a reptile safe disinfectant

Always wash your hands, surfaces and equipment with warm water and disinfectant immediately before and after handling or feeding your snake, their food, enclosure and any other equipment.

Additional Information

A Corn Snake will shed its skin every so often, depending on how big the snake is and how quickly it is growing. As a general rule, a young snake will shed every 3 to 6 weeks and an older snake every 2 to 6 months.

The best way to tell that your Corn Snake is going to shed its skin is to look at its general colour and eyes. The Corn Snake will appear duller than normal and may have a washed out look. This will become more obvious as the Corn Snake nears shedding its skin. The snake's eyes will appear clouded at first and will eventually turn a bluey/grey colour. Normal colouration will return once the Corn Snake has shed its skin.

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