

Corn Snake



OVERVIEW



- Ease of Care: Beginner
- Size: 4 to 6ft (48- 72")
- Life Span: 20+ year in Captivity
- Diet: Carnivore - Rodents
- Humidity: 40-50%
- Temperament: Friendly
- Background Temp: 23-28°C (73.4-82.4°F)
- HOT Spot: 30-31°C (86-88°F)

TOP TIPS

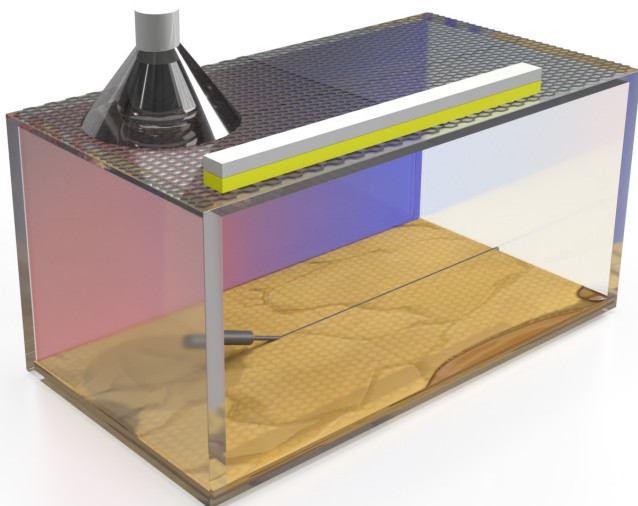
- ✓ After feeding let your snake digest its meal for 2 days before handling him.
- ✓ If your snake refuses to feed, try offering a smaller or larger food item.
- ✓ A Corn Snake will normally refuse its food when it is about to shed so wait until the snake has fully shed before offering food.
- ✓ A bad 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
- ✓ Make sure any Vivarium vents are facing inward. This way, they can't be pushed out allowing the snake to escape.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Housing: Wooden Vivarium
- Heating: Basking Bulb / Deep heat projector (12 hours on/off cycle)
- Lighting: UV Tube (12 hours on/off cycle)
- Substrate: HabiStat Snake Bedding (HSSB10), HabiStat Lignocel (HSL10) or Arcadia EarthMix Arid (RAREA10)
- Water: HabiStat Round Plastic Water Bowl

ENVIRONMENT

Terrestrial Terrarium Setup



HOUSING

A relevant sized Terrainium or Vivarium offer the ideal housing solutions for a Corn Snake (*Pantherophis guttatus*) dependant on size/age.

Baby Corn Snake:

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/ Adult Corn Snake:

Monkfield Terrainium, L90 x D38 x H20cm
(36 x 18 x 18") (DVF36 / DVF36BL)

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

Heating

Corn Snakes are an ectothermic (cold-blooded) animal and take all 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 HabiStat 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 the HabiStat Ceramic Bulb (HBC60) or Arcadia Deep Heat Projector (RARHP50) that is thermostatically controlled.

The Ceramic bulb or Deep Heat Projector should be set up using an Arcadia Pro Ceramic Lamp holder (RADCHP), which can be hung from the roof of the vivarium, approximately 15-20cms from one side.

The Ceramic bulb or Deep Heat Projector should be used in conjunction with a HabiStat Dimming Thermostat (HTDW).

Dimming 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 HabiStat Heater Guard (HHG24) should be used to surround your chosen heat source to prevent the animal coming into direct contact with the heat source.

Temperature and Monitoring

As a rough guide, daytime temperatures should be between 23-28°C (73.4-82.4°F) with the hot end up to 30-31°C (86-88°F) going down to 23°C (73.4°F) at the cooler end of the enclosure.

Night-time temperatures should be 23-30°C (73.4-86°F).

Make sure temperatures are checked regularly with a 2x probed thermometers (one in both the hot and cooler ends) to ensure that there are no extreme fluctuations.

Lighting

In captivity, a UV light is essential for a Corn Snake's health and wellbeing. We recommend using a UV tube which has been specifically designed for such species. The Arcadia ShadeDweller (RARTP8S) would be ideal.

Ensure that the UV tube is fitted correctly and securely overhead and should overlap the basking bulb.

Substrates and Decoration

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

- 1) Substrates: A dry and non-dusty substrate such as HabiStat Snake Bedding (HSSB10), HabiStat Lignocel (HSL10) or Arcadia EarthMix Arid (RAREA10), that is easy to spot clean.
- 2) Wood and branches 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 & WATER



Hatchlings through to Adults should be offered appropriately sized defrosted feeders. As a general rule, the feed size offered to your snake should be no larger in diameter than 1-1½ 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 additional supplementation. But the occasional light sprinkling (few times yearly) with a multivitamin on the chosen rodent can be beneficial

HEALTH & HYGIENE



We recommend the following cleaning routine to keep your Corn 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 remove any dirty bedding	Wipe down glass and walls with a reptile safe disinfectant
Monthly		Full substrate change	Wipe down inside the enclosure and disinfect décor with a reptile safe disinfectant

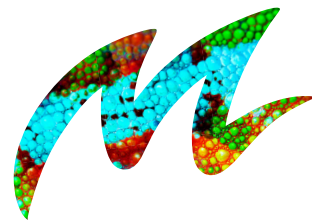
Always wash your hands, surfaces and equipment with warm water and disinfectant immediately before and after handling or feeding your Corn Snake, their food, enclosure and any other equipment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



A Corn Snake will shed its skin every so often, depending on how big the snake is - and how quickly its growing. As a 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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HabiStat

