

CARING FOR THE CORN SNAKE

PANTHEROPHIS GUTTATUS

Corn snakes are great pets for beginners. They are docile, easy to care for, and require minimal space. They are also relatively inexpensive to purchase and maintain.



A Brief History!

Corn snakes have been kept as pets since the early 1900s. They are generally gentle and docile animals, making them ideal pets for those looking for a low-maintenance reptile. Corn snakes are not particularly social animals, but with regular handling, they can learn to recognize their owner and become comfortable with them. They can also become attached to their owners, but this is not something that typically happens naturally.

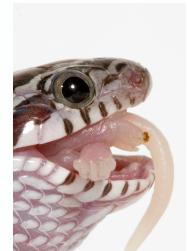
Habitat Requirements

Corn snakes are native to the southeastern United States, so they do best in a habitat that replicates their natural environment. Corn snakes need an enclosure that is at least 20-30 gallons. The enclosure should have a secure lid and should be made of glass or plastic. The enclosure should be cleaned regularly and should have a substrate such as aspen bedding, coconut fiber, or paper towels. There should also be plenty of hiding places, such as hollow logs, rocks, and plants.

Corn snakes require a temperature gradient in their enclosure. The warm side should be maintained at 80-85 degrees Fahrenheit, and the cool side should be kept between 70-75 degrees Fahrenheit. This can be accomplished with a heating pad, ceramic heat lamp, or under-tank heater.

Proper Diet, Snacks

Corn snakes should be fed a diet of rodents, such as mice or rats. The rodents should be appropriately sized for the size of the snake, and the size of the prey should increase as the snake grows. The prey should be live or freshly killed and should not be frozen. Corn snakes should be fed one to two times per week.



In addition to the regular diet of mice and rats, corn snakes can also be offered appropriate snacks such as small lizards, fish, or insects. These snacks should not be offered more than once a week and should be no larger than the width of the snake's head.

Is my pet healthy?

Check the overall body condition – a healthy corn snake will have a smooth, glossy complexion, with clear eyes and a plump body.

Check for signs of shedding – a healthy corn snake will shed its skin in one piece.

Check for signs of infection or parasites – a healthy corn snake will have no signs of mites, ticks, or any other infections.

Always consult with a veterinarian for questions regarding your snake's health!

Exercise & Enrichment



Corn snakes do not require a lot of exercise, but it is important to provide them with opportunities to climb and explore their enclosure. This can be accomplished by adding branches, rocks, and hollow logs for them to climb on and explore.

In addition to providing a stimulating environment in their enclosure, corn snakes also need enrichment activities to stay healthy and keep them mentally stimulated. This can be accomplished by providing them with puzzles to solve, providing them with scented hides to explore, or by providing them with scented objects to explore and investigate.