

Care Sheet for Corn Snakes

Pantherophis guttatus

By: The Reptile Shed

<http://www.reptileshed.com>

Description: Corn snakes, or as many people so lovingly refer to them, corns, are a member of the rat snake family. (a recently reclassified genus Pantherophis formerly Elaphe) The corn snake is a slender bodied terrestrial snake that is currently being bred in a countless number of color and pattern mutations. Corns are very calm snakes and make a wonderful pet if cared for properly.

Distribution: the eastern part of the United States ranging from North Carolina to Florida

Size: 4 to 6 feet

Feeding: 1 appropriately sized, thawed or live mouse every 5-10 days. (we prefer frozen thawed meals for the safety of the snake)

Sexing: as a hatchling, a hemipene can be manually everted if they are male. As an adult, they need to be probed. NOTE- This should not be attempted without the supervision of an experienced breeder due to risk of injury and permanent damage to the snake.

Longevity: in captivity, corn snakes have been known to live for 15+ years.

Temperature: ambient 72-76 degrees; basking spot 80-85 degrees. This can be done with the use of a light or under cage heating. NEVER use heat rocks!

Breeding: corns readily breed in captivity following a winter burmation period. Following successful breeding, the females will lay a clutch of 10-40 soft shelled eggs after a period of about 40 days.

Incubation: the eggs should be incubated on moist vermiculite or sphagnum at 80-82 degrees and about 80-90% humidity. Incubation usually last about 9 weeks, however this time varies greatly with incubation conditions.

Babies: babies should be cared for in the same way as adults but on a smaller level. Babies are not as forgiving as adults in their husbandry and can decline very fast.