



Basic care of
CORN SNAKES
(*Pantherophis guttatus*)

Natural range

Cornsnakes are found over most of North America.

Description

The Classic cornsnake has red saddles on an orange/brown background, though there are many morphs available including albino. It averages three and a half to four and a half feet and has a maximum size of about six feet. It is a slender bodied snake when compared to most boas and pythons and its usually gentle demeanour make them fine pets.

Captive conditions

A single cornsnake will live in a vivarium measuring 3ft x 18ins x 18ins (minimum guidelines). Babies should be kept in smaller plastic containers to eliminate stress and encourage feeding.

Many substrates work well, we use hemp bedding as standard for adults and paper towels for babies. Care should be taken when feeding to avoid ingestion of any substrate.

Heating should be provided by a heatmat connected to a thermostat set to 90 degrees F to prevent overheating. The heatmat should cover no more than 1/3 of the floor area to allow the snake to choose their desired temperatures. Temperatures should also be monitored by the use of a thermometer.

Two hides should be provided, one at the hot end and one at the cool end so the snake does not have to choose between heat and cover.

Clean water should always be present at the cool end for the snake to drink.

Feeding

Cornsnakes feed on defrosted mice and rats in captivity, starting on pinkie mice and working their way up to large mice and weaner rats. Feeding should take place every five to seven days when young and on average every seven days when adult.

Prey size should be determined by the prey animal being no thicker than the snake at its widest part.

Feeding should always be performed using tongs to avoid being bitten.

Disclaimer- A&J Reptiles accepts no responsibility for any damage sustained from following this advise. All responsibility lies with the owner.

