Corn Snake

Pantherophis guttatus

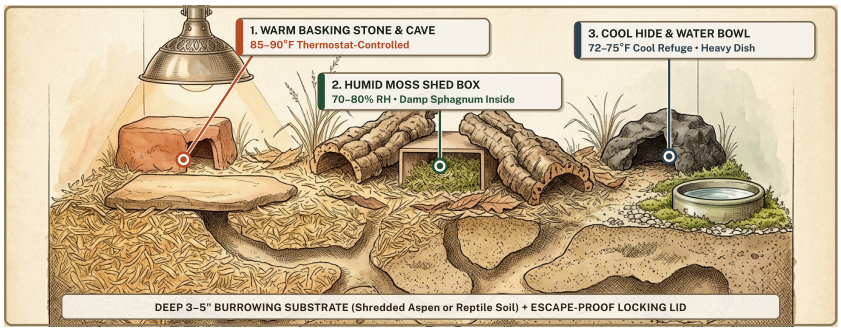
The Quick Version: If you want a snake that eats like a champ, handles gently, and stays an easy 3.5 to 5 feet, it's hard to beat a Corn Snake! Native to wooded fields and old barns in the southeastern US, they're curious climbers and tunnel-diggers that come in dozens of awesome color morphs.



LIFESPAN	ADULT SIZE	ACTIVE HOURS	ADULT TANK	DIET
15–20+ Years	3.5–5 Feet	Dusk & Night	40B / 36×18"+ Tank	Frozen/Thawed Mice

1. Escape-Proof Tank & Warm-to-Cool Setup

RULE #1: LOCK THAT LID! CORN SNAKES ARE LITTLE ESCAPE ARTISTS!



Warm Hide / Basking Spot Always run on a digital thermostat!	85°–88°F
Warm Side Air Temp Gentle warmth for digesting mice	80°–84°F
Humid Moss Shed Cave Pack with damp moss (especially when eyes turn blue!)	70–80% RH
Cool Side & Tank Air Cool side retreat + heavy water bowl (40–60% RH)	72°–75°F
Nighttime Temp Drop Lights off at night; normal room temp drop	68°–72°F

2. Two Ways That Work — Pick What Fits Your Home

SHORT & SWEET: BOTH OPTIONS WORK GREAT

Heating: Under-Tank Heat Mat vs. Overhead Bulb

Snakes need an 85–88°F warm zone for 48 hours after eating to digest dinner:

OPTION A: UNDER-TANK HEAT MAT + DIGITAL THERMOSTAT (STAFF PICK)

Warms the floor right under the warm cave. **Non-negotiable:** plug into a digital thermostat set to 86–87°F.

OPTION B: OVERHEAD BASKING BULB OR DEEP HEAT PROJECTOR

Warms a flat stone from above — great for watching your snake come out and climb branches at dusk!

Bedding: Shredded Aspen vs. Reptisoil / Cypress

Corn Snakes love plowing secret tunnels through 3–4 inches of loose bedding:

OPTION A: SHREDDED ASPEN SNAKE BEDDING

Fluffy, holds tunnels great, stays dry, and makes spotting poop super easy. Just include a damp moss cave for shedding!

OPTION B: REPTISOIL & FOREST FLOOR CYPRESS BLEND

Holds moisture better in dry winters (and is our top pick for Scaleless morphs!). Seed with **Powder Orange/Blue**, **Dalmatian**, or **Giant Canyon Isopods + Springtails** for bioactive cleanup!

Lighting: Shade UVB vs. Simple Day/Night Light

Whole mice already have 100% of the calcium and Vitamin D3 your snake needs:

OPTION A: LOW-OUTPUT SHADE UVB (5%–6% T5)

Brings out their glowing reds, oranges, and whites while encouraging daytime exploring.

OPTION B: STANDARD ROOM / LED DAY-NIGHT CYCLE

Works great as long as the tank has a clear daytime light schedule and goes completely dark at night.

3. Feeding Guide (100% Frozen/Thawed Mice — Never Live!)

SIZING TRICK: PICK A MOUSE 1 TO 1.25× AS WIDE AS THE THICKEST PART OF YOUR SNAKE'S BELLY

Babies	Every 5–7 Days	**1 Frozen/Thawed Pinky Mouse:** Once a pinky disappears without leaving a belly bump after 24 hrs, step up to Double Pinkies or a Small Fuzzy.
Juveniles	Every 7–10 Days	**1 Fuzzy to Hopper Mouse:** About the same width (up to 1.25×) as the thickest middle part of your snake.
Adults	Every 10–14 Days	**1 Weaned to Adult Mouse:** One adult mouse every 10–14 days keeps adults trim, active, and healthy.

How to Thaw & Serve a Frozen Mouse:

1. Frozen/Thawed ONLY
Safe, humane, and parasite-free — live mice bite!

2. Thaw in Fridge & Warm (~98°F)
Thaw in fridge, warm sealed bag in warm water (never microwave)

3. Wiggle with Tongs
Hold by the tail with tongs and do a little dance

4. Hands Off for 48 Hrs!
Let them digest in their warm cave for 2 full days

What Are Corn Snake 'Morphs'? A 'morph' is just a natural color or scale gene (like Amel/Albino, Anery, Snow, Tessera, Palmetto, or even velvety Scaleless)! All Corn Snake morphs have the exact same friendly personality and care — just give red-eyed Albinos extra leafy shade and give Scaleless morphs soft soil bedding.

4. Tips, Tricks & Big No-Nos from Our Reptile Team

REAL-WORLD HABITS THAT KEEP THEM THRIVING

Houdini Lid Check
If a Corn Snake's nose can poke through a wire cord slot or loose screen corner, the whole snake will follow! Always use metal screen clips or a door lock.

'In Blue' = Shed Week
Right before shedding, their eyes turn milky blue and they can't see well. Skip handling that week and mist their moss cave so the skin rolls off in one piece!

Feed Right in the Tank
You don't need a separate 'feeding tub'! Moving a full snake stresses them out — just offer mice with long tongs so your hands never smell like dinner.

Snug Caves = Happy Snake
Snakes hate giant cavernous hides — they want their sides touching the walls so they feel wedged in safe! Put one snug cave on the warm side and one on the cool side.

5. Grab-and-Go Setup Checklist

ASK US ON THE FLOOR — WE'LL HELP YOU MATCH EVERYTHING!

ESCAPE-PROOF TANK & BEDDING

- [ ] 20-Gal Long (Baby) or 40-Gal Breeder / 36"×18" Locking Terrarium
- [ ] Heavy-Duty Metal Screen Clips or Sliding Door Lock
- [ ] Shredded Aspen Snake Bedding OR Reptisoil / Forest Floor Cypress
- [ ] Climbing Branches, Cork Bark Flats & Leafy Clutter

HEATING & THERMOSTAT

- [ ] Digital Thermostat (Mandatory for All Heating Devices!)
- [ ] Under-Tank Heat Mat OR 50W–75W Basking Bulb / DHP
- [ ] Digital Probe Thermometer & Hygrometer

SNUG CAVES, BOWL & MICE

- [ ] 2 Snug Caves (Warm Side & Cool Side)
- [ ] Enclosed Humid Shed Box + Sphagnum Moss
- [ ] Heavy Ceramic Water Bowl + Water Dechlorinator
- [ ] Stainless Steel Feeding Tongs + Frozen Mice

A Quick Note from Our Team — Keep Learning & Ask Us Anytime!

The quick version: there's more than one right way to set up a great enclosure! As long as your temperatures, humidity, and diet are dialed in, your pet doesn't care whether its cave is fancy resin or a terra-cotta pot. Bringing home this critter is a **15–20+ year commitment** — use these two pages as your home-base cheat sheet, watch what your pet tells you with their daily behavior, find a good local exotic vet, and call or stop by the shop anytime you have questions!

MY CORN SNAKE'S INFO

Name / Morph: _____

Current Diet: _____

Date Adopted: _____