INSIDE FLAP • KEEPER HABITS

4 Keys to Long-Term Health

Small Daily Habits That Prevent 95% of Vet Visits

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.

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.

BACK COVER • TAKE THIS TO THE AISLE

Grab-and-Go Setup Checklist

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

MY CORN SNAKE'S INFO & FEEDING LOG

Name / Morph: _____

Gotcha Date & Weight: _____

Current Feeder Size & Day: _____

Critter Cabana & Cascade Pet Supply

Questions about heating, shedding, or a picky eater? Stop by or call our reptile team anytime — we're here for the full 15–20+ year commitment!

CRITTER CABANA & CASCADE PET SUPPLY • CARE GUIDE

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.

QUICK VITAL STATS AT-A-GLANCE

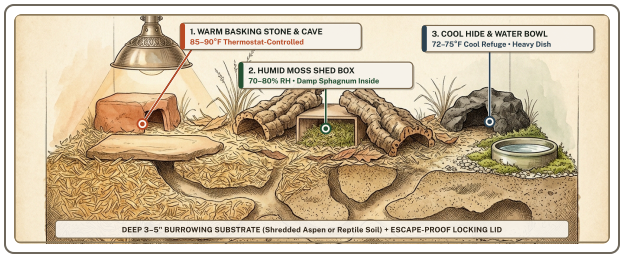
LIFESPAN **15–20+ Years**	ADULT SIZE **3.5–5 Feet**
ACTIVE HOURS **Dusk & Night**	ADULT TANK **40B / 36×18"+ Tank**
DIET **Frozen/Thawed Mice**	

OPEN FOR TANK SETUP, TEMPS, FEEDING & SHOPPING LIST →

STEP 1 • HABITAT & CLIMATE

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**

Thermostat & Gauge Rule: Stick-on dial gauges can be off by 10°F+! Use a digital probe thermometer/hygrometer and always plug heating mats and heat emitters into a **digital thermostat**.

STEP 2 • STOCKED STORE OPTIONS

Two Ways That Work

Pick Option A or Option B Based on Your Home Setup

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 if you choose a smooth Scaleless morph!). **Never use cedar or pine shavings!**

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.

STEP 3 • DIET & NUTRITION

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

First-Week Rule: Give your new Corn Snake **5 to 7 days of peace and quiet** in its new tank before handling or offering its very first meal so it can map out its hides and feel safe!