

## Corn Snake

Corn snakes are brilliant snakes for beginner reptile keepers. These snakes are primarily diurnal and are fairly quick paced. They are available in a large variety of morphs and can live for more than 20 years. Snakes are best housed alone as company can be stressful. Low night time temperatures can cause snakes to hibernate.

Please check for morph availability.



## Glossary

**Reptile** – A cold-blooded vertebrate with scaly skin.

**Amphibian** – A cold-blooded vertebrate that begins life as an aquatic animal and grows into a terrestrial adult with lungs.

**Terrestrial** – A ground dwelling animal.

**Arboreal** – An animal that lives in trees.

**Diurnal** – Awake in the day.

**Nocturnal**– Awake during the night.

**UVB** – Ultraviolet radiation.

**Colubrid** – A family of snakes.

**Hybrid** – Offspring from animals of different species.

**Morph** – Colourations created due to genetics.

**Musk** – Unpleasant odour released when an animal is stressed or feels threatened.

### Live plants are only available on special order

If you require any further information, please ask our pet care advisors who will be very happy to help.

#### Opening Times

Monday – Saturday: 9am – 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am – 4pm

#### Chessington Garden Centre

Leatherhead Road, Chessington, Surrey, KT9 2NG

**Tel:** 01372 725 638

**Email:** [info@chessingtongardencentre.co.uk](mailto:info@chessingtongardencentre.co.uk)

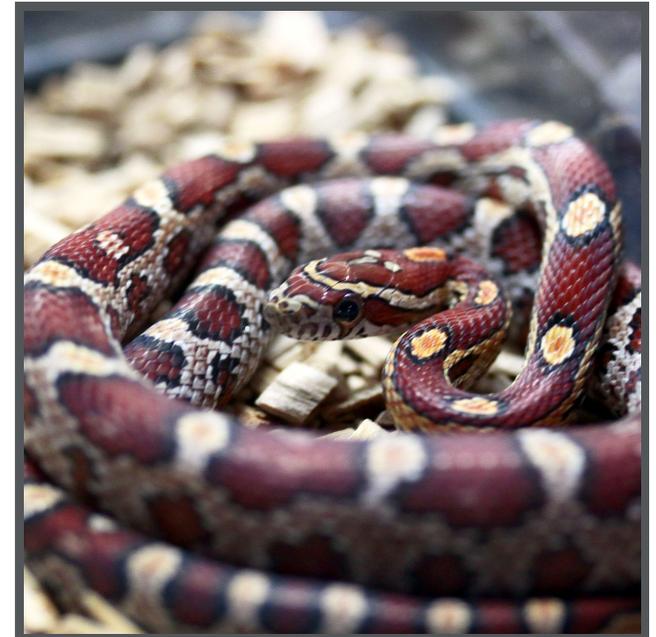
**Web:** [www.chessingtongardencentre.co.uk](http://www.chessingtongardencentre.co.uk)



Please recycle me once you've finished reading.

  
Chessington

# Corn Snake



## Care & Advice Sheet

Inspiration for your Home & Garden

## Size & Housing

These snakes are not large bodied but do get to a decent size. They generally reach anywhere between 4–6ft in length. They are best housed in wooden vivariums as they maintain the heat better than glass terrariums. We recommend:

3ft x 2ft x 1.5ft – Minimum for 1 Adult

4ft x 2ft x 1.5ft – Ideal if the adult exceeds 5ft in length

## Handling

Corn snakes are fine with handling. Their general movement is a fairly quick pace so pay attention to where your snake is moving. Whenever handling, provide support with both hands to the body and avoid getting too close to their head. If they are uncomfortable or feel threatened; they will shake the end of their tail quickly and you will hear it. Handling little and often is always best.

## Substrate & Furnishings

Different substrates can be used for corn snakes. For ease of cleaning, newspaper or paper towels can be used but must be changed when soiled. Other substrates include beech chips, corn cob granules or aspen. Provide hides (such as caves) in at least both sides of the enclosure so they have a hot and a cold hide to allow the snake to regulate their body temperature. With lots of hides in the enclosure the snake is likely to feel more secure.

They can be very active snakes and will appreciate branches and ledges. Artificial plants can be used for decoration. Spot pick the enclosure daily and full clean once or twice a month using a reptile specific disinfectant.

## Lighting & Temperature

They can be prone to UV conjunctivitis from high percentage UVB but you can provide lighting with a low percentage UVB if you wish for 10–12 hours a day. This is best controlled by a timer. They require a basking area with a temperature around 28–29°C – this is best achieved by using a heat bulb or ceramic heat emitter with a guard controlled by a thermostat at all times. There should be a temperature gradient across the enclosure with a cool end dropping by a few degrees. The temperature can fall to 21°C at night. Heat mats can be used however, bulbs are better at creating the correct ambient temperature and gradient.

## Food & Water

Fresh water should be provided daily in a large bowl. Monitor the humidity in case the snake has issues shedding. If so, provide a moist hide with moss. Juvenile snakes should be fed once a week. Adults can be fed once a week providing they are not obese but may become likely to feed every two weeks. The general rule of thumb is to offer food no larger than

the largest part of its body. Offer rodents such as:

- Mice
- Rats

Some snakes will have a preference including type and colour of the food. Be aware that rats are much fatter than mice so it is essential to keep an eye on the overall body condition of your snake. They may go off of their food in colder months.

Defrost the mice or rats for a few hours before feeding and use warm water to warm the rodent up if needed. Tongs should be used to feed the snake as they may miss the food. This is the main chance to be bitten. It is recommended to feed the snake in a separate container.

**Do not handle the snake for 24–48 hours after feeding as this can cause the snake to regurgitate the food.**

