

Clark's Pet Emporium

Corn Snake Care Sheet



Species - Corn Snake
Color - Albino

Clark's Pet Emporium has taken pride in sharing quality pets with our community for over 40 years. Now you can give your pet the very best care, from our home to yours, with Clark's Care Sheets.

The Corn Snake care sheet will provide you with basic knowledge to begin your new life with a snake, ranging from diet to habitat and snake husbandry. For further details regarding specific care, please contact Clark's with your questions and concerns.

Is a Corn Snake the right pet for you?

Please take a moment to ask yourself the following questions:

- **Do you have adequate space to house a properly constructed and secured snake enclosure?**
- **Are you prepared to offer your Corn Snake the food it will need? Food items will consist of live or frozen rodents, sometimes baby rodents that can be emotionally difficult to feed to another animal!**
- **Are you willing to make considerable investment in the special lighting, housing, and heating requirements of your reptile?**
- **Does your lifestyle support the fact that this pet will be a part of your family for the next 15-25 years? This decision a serious commitment!**

If you answered "yes!" to ALL of these questions, read through the rest of this care sheet and visit your favorite Clark's location to inquire about adopting a Corn Snake!

Shopping Check-List:

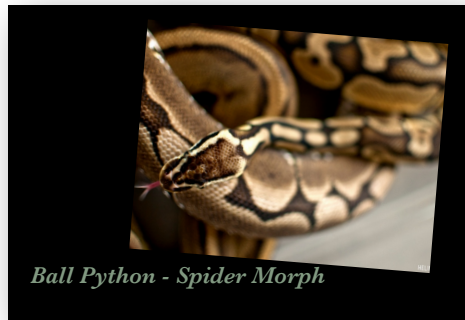
- **Corn Snake book / reading material**
- **Appropriate sized enclosure, terrarium, or aquarium**
- **Enclosure substrate / bedding**
- **Appropriate heat source (basking light or tropical heat pad)**
- **Appropriate size hide (cave, tunnel, bark, or decorations) to make the animal feel less exposed**
- **Water bowl and bathing container**
- **Water sprayer, humidifier, or fogger**
- **Diet - Live or frozen/pre-killed rodents of the appropriate size**
- **Reptile-safe cleaning supplies**



Hatchling Corn Snake in Aspen Bedding

Dietary Needs:

- Corn snakes exclusively eat rodents. Physiologically, mice are a more appropriate food item than rats
- As a safer alternative to live food, pre-killed frozen rodents can be thawed and fed
- The thickness of the rodent should be equal to the largest diameter of the snake's body. Corn Snakes can easily unhinge their jaw bones to swallow food larger than their mouth appears!
- Never feed wild rodents to your python! These animals can carry diseases or may have come into contact with toxins
- Fresh, cool water available at all times to soak and drink



Ball Python - Spider Morph

Housing:

- Young Corn snakes under 2' can be housed in a 10 gallon terrarium. Larger snakes will require a minimum of 20-40 gallons. It is recommended to house Corn snakes individually
- Dry substrate, such as aspen chips, or reptile carpet are good options. Two to three inches of aspen chips will allow the snake to comfortably burrow while maintaining a natural appearance in the enclosure
- All snakes are adept escape artists! Any access points must be securely locked, leaving no gaps
- Corn snakes will typically spend their time on the ground and do not require branches or vines to climb, though these items may still be provided if desired
- Provide a water source large enough for the entire snake to bathe in
- Offer a hide large enough for the entire snake to fit inside. Branches and decorations can also be provided for hiding
- The layout of the enclosure should allow for a warm area on one side, a cool area with water on the opposite side, and a neutral temperature gradient across the middle. This will allow the reptile to choose where to hide by temperature and thermoregulate

Feeding Practice:

- It is recommended to place your snake in a large plastic tub separate from their housing for feeding - this practice reduces the chance that your snake associates your handling with food!
- Once the rodent is consumed, allow 20 minutes for the snake's feeding response to turn off before returning it to the enclosure
- If feeding live rodents, NEVER leave the snake unattended - rodents can defend themselves and have been known to mangle or kill snakes!
- Corn snakes under 3 years old should be fed once every 7 days. Once a Corn snake is over 3 years old, feedings can be reduced to once every 14 days as their metabolism slows down
- Avoid stress inducing activities, such as playing loud music and cleaning the enclosure, before feeding times. Stressed snakes may refuse food if they do not feel calm and comfortable

Safety Tips:

Corn snakes, like all reptiles, carry the salmonella bacteria. It has the potential to make people, especially children, very sick! Handle your snake regularly, but ALWAYS disinfect your hands and surfaces in contact with the reptile afterward!

Do not put rocks or sticks found in your yard directly into your pet's enclosure! You may inadvertently introduce insects, parasites, fungus, bacteria, or toxins into your reptile's habitat!

Never place the enclosure in direct sunlight. Glass allows light in, but traps all heat from escaping. This may lead to dangerously high temperatures for your reptile!

Always supervise a reptile outside its enclosure! They can easily slip away in seconds and may never be found, especially snakes!

Heating and Lighting

- Lights should be kept on a 12 hour night/day cycle. A proper day and night cycle is essential for Corn snake behavior and health
- Ambient enclosure temperature should be 75°-78°F with a basking temperature of 85°-88°F. Night time temperatures can safely drop to 72°-78°F.
- Heat sources should be placed to one end of the habitat, allowing for a steady gradient from hot to cool
- If temperatures are difficult to maintain, consider supplementing your heat source with an infrared bulb that can be left on permanently
- UVB lighting is not necessary for these nocturnal creatures, as they have adapted to a lifestyle of staying out of direct sunlight, but new research shows that the inclusion of UVB lighting may benefit Corn snake temperament, growth, and color

Cleaning and Maintenance:

- Routinely remove soiled substrate and water immediately. Replace all substrate once per month
- Spilled water sources may lead to mold growth. Be sure to immediately clean out any fungus or mold. Use heavy bowls to avoid spilled water
- Never use harsh household chemicals in a reptile enclosure. A pet-safe cleaner or 50/50 mix of water and vinegar can safely clean the habitat and loosen water mineral deposits on glass



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