



# Corn Snake



## OVERVIEW



- Scientific Name: *Pantherophis guttatus*
- Origin: North America
- Ease of Care: Intermediate
- Potential Adult Size: 4ft to 6ft
- Life Span: 20 years
- Behaviour: Crepuscular
- Diet: Carnivore
- Handling: Intermediate

## TOP TIPS

- ✓ After feeding, let your snake digest its meal for 2 days before any handling.
- ✓ Offer a smaller or larger food item if your snake refuses to feed.
- ✓ If your snake is refusing its food when it's about to shed, wait until the snake has fully shed before offering food.
- ✓ A bad shed is normally a sign of something wrong in the snake's environment.
- ✓ Using a suitably sized hide filled with damp moss with offer the Snake humidity if needed.
- ✓ Ensure vivarium vents are facing inwards. This should stop an inquisitive snake from escaping.

## EQUIPMENT NEEDED



- Housing: Vivarium
- Heating: Heat Bulb
- Thermostat: Dimming Thermostat
- Lighting: UV Tube (Light Cycle: 12 hours of light)
- Substrate: HabiStat Jungle Bio, HabiStat Snake Bedding, Arcadia EarthMix Arid
- Water: Water bowl

## HOUSING



### Hatchling/Juvenile -

HabiStat Hatchling Snake Starter Kit (HSSK)  
HabiStat Terrainium (HT24)

### Adult -

HabiStat Standard Vivarium 36x24x24" (HV3624)  
HabiStat Standard Vivarium 48x24x24" (HV4824)

## RUNNING COSTS



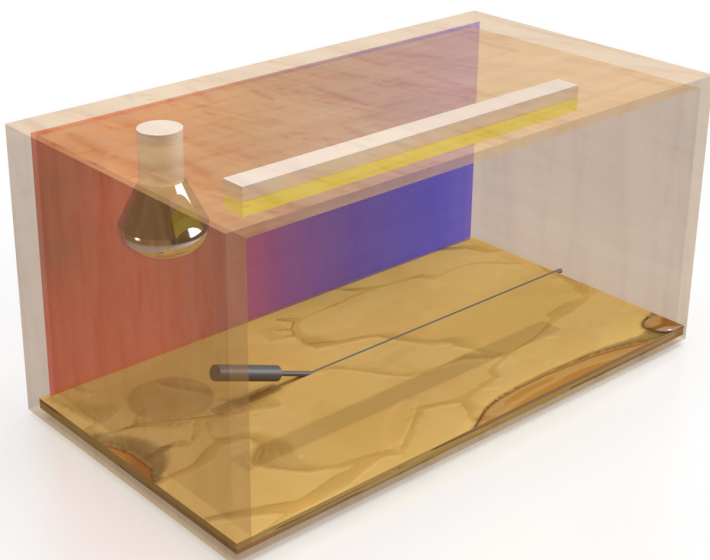
- Average Cost: 28p Per Day
- Average kW per day: 0.983

Calculations are based on using the recommended timings, heating, and lighting provided throughout the care sheet, and the Electricity unit rate of 28p per kWh.

## ENVIRONMENT



### Terrestrial Vivarium Setup



### Enclosure Readings

- Hot Spot: 28-32°C (82-90°F)
- Background Temp: 23°C-26°C (74°F-80°F)
- Night-Time Temp: 23°C-26°C (74°F-80°F)
- Humidity: 40%-50%
- UVI: 2-3

### Heating

Corn Snakes are a crepuscular species and require a suitable light and heat gradient in the enclosure to simulate a complete 24-hour period.

The HabiStat Snake Accessory Kit (HSSAK) provides all the light, heat, and safety elements for the enclosure in one handy kit.

Use the Arcadia Pro Ceramic Lamp Holder & Bracket (RADCHP) with the HabiStat Heat Bulb (HBB100) with the HabiStat Heater Guard (HHG24) protecting the bulb, all running through the HabiStat Dimming Thermostat (HTDW).

Dimming thermostats are designed to regulate temperatures using a thermostat probe (also known as a sensor). Correct placement of the probe is critical to avoid overheating and injury to the animal.

Check temperatures and humidity regularly, using a reliable thermometer and hygrometer to ensure that there are no extreme fluctuations.

## Lighting

Fit the Arcadia Pro T5 UVB Kit 6% (RARTP39F) or alternatively the Arcadia LumenIZE Pro T5 UVB Kit 6% (RARLZ39F) to the inside roof of the vivarium.

Ensure that it is fitted correctly and within the manufactures recommended distances, providing a UVI of 2-3.

## DIET & WATER

Ensure the Snake has a varied diet, with a mixture of thawed Rodents and Poultry.

It is important to select an appropriately sized rodent for the size of your Corn Snake. In general, we would suggest a feeder that is approximately the size (in width) of the largest part of the snake. If the food is too big then it could cause regurgitation and stress to the snake.

Hatchling - Every 5-7 days

Juvenile - Every 7-10 days

Adult - Every 14-21 days

Always provide a source of fresh water. The HabiStat Sandstone Water Dish (HRSSCM) will provide a safe and sturdy option.

To maintain and regulate humidity within the enclosure, mist as required.

## Substrates and Decoration

Personal choice will dictate how you decorate your enclosure, but we recommend the following as a guide:

- HabiStat Jungle Bio (HSJB10), HabiStat Snake Bedding (HSSB10), Arcadia EarthMix Arid (RAREA10)
- HabiStat Cork Branch (HDB1), HabiStat Grapevine (HSGV) and HabiStat Tea Tree Branch (HSNTB) will offer shelter and enrichment within the enclosure.
- Live or artificial plant decoration will provide darker areas for the animal to use as shelter
- A HabiStat Forest Hideout (HSNFHL) filled with HabiStat Sphagnum Moss (HSMS250) will offer the Snake a humid area to use when needed.

## SUPPLEMENTATION

The Corn Snake does not require additional supplementation if their diet is kept varied.

Although using Arcadia Shed Support (RAREPSS30) once a month on the chosen rodent can be beneficial in aiding their natural shedding process by supplying essential vitamins and minerals.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A Corn Snake will shed its skin every so often, depending on how big the snake is and how quickly its growing. As a rule, a young snake will shed every 3 to 6 weeks, and an older snake every 2 to 6 months.

The best way to tell that your Snake is about to shed their skin, is to look at their general colour and eyes.

The Corn Snake will appear duller than normal and may have a washed-out look. This will become more obvious as the Corn Snake nears shedding its skin.

The snake's eyes will appear clouded at first and will eventually turn a bluey/grey colour. Normal colouration will return once the Corn Snake has shed its skin.

## HEALTH & HYGIENE



We recommend the following cleaning routine to keep your animal healthy and happy:

	Water	Substrate	Enclosure
Daily	Change old water for fresh water	Spot clean	Check vents on enclosure are not blocked and allow air to pass through freely
Weekly	Disinfect water bowl or dish	Agitate substrate to prevent any bacterial build-up and remove any dirty bedding	Wipe down glass and walls with a reptile safe disinfectant
Monthly		Take out old substrate and replace with new substrate	Wipe down inside the enclosure and disinfect décor with a reptile safe disinfectant

Always wash your hands, surfaces and equipment with warm water and disinfectant immediately before and after handling the animal, any live-food, enclosure, and any other equipment using HabiStat Anti-Bac Spray (HABS) for any surface, and HabiStat Hand Sanitiser (HABG) for hand hygiene.

## HANDLING & CARE



While this species is generally placid and will tolerate gentle handling, this can at times be very stressful for the animal, so any handling should only be done in short periods.

Things to look out for that will need veterinary assistance:

- Skin shedding problems (retained shed)
- Going off food
- Loose bowel movements

Should your animal display any signs of distress, changes in regular behaviour, or anything visually different, please seek help from your Reptile Veterinarian.



# DATA MONITORING



**Corn Snake** *Pantherophis guttatus*. Complete this Sheet at the same time every day e.g. 12pm

	Hotspot Temp 28°C-32°C (82°F-90°F)	Background Temp 23°C-26°C (74°F-80°F)	Humidity 40%-50%	UVI 2-3	Night Time Temp 23°C-26°C (74°F-80°F)	Feeding
Monday						
Tuesday						
Wednesday						
Thursday						
Friday						
Saturday						
Sunday						