



Lone Mountain

••• ANIMAL HOSPITAL •••



Housing

Young corn snakes less than 2ft long can comfortably be housed in an enclosure 30in x 12in x 12in, adult corn snakes should be housed in enclosures at least 36in x 18in x 18in.

Fit enclosures with secure locking lids and doors, as corn snakes are known to escape their enclosures

Provide hiding spots on both the warm and cool ends of the enclosure to provide visual security.

Provide a large sturdy water bowl at all times and should be large enough for the snake to submerge in

Bedding options include: compressed coconut fibers, natural wood chips (avoid cedar and pine chips), reptile carpet, and AstroTurf.

Handling and Ease of Care

Most easily handled snakes, and are recommended for beginning hobbyist
Rarely strike and if handled regularly and consistently while still young, make great, low maintenance pets if their basic requirements are met

Excerpts from www.anapsid.org, Edited by Dana Rocco, Veterinary Assistant, and reviewed by Stephanie Lamb, DVM South Wilton Veterinary Group, and Darius Starks, DVM Lone Mountain Animal Hospital

Introduction to Corn Snakes

Description

Small to medium constrictor snakes native to the eastern and southern portions of the US. One of the most popular snakes kept worldwide and come in a variety of colors and patterns.

Sexing

Difficult to sex; females tend to be much larger than males

The only reliable way to determine sex is through probing that should be performed by a veterinarian
Males will evert their hemipenes when manually expressed, but is not recommended because it can lead to prolapse

Unreliable sexing techniques is based on tail length – mature males have longer tails

Size

Large females can reach lengths of 5-6 ft in length, although average lengths are 3-4.5 ft.
Typically weigh 600-800 g

Diet

Feed young corn snakes prey item not more than twice the diameter of the thickest portion of the snake every 7-10 days

Feed mature corn snake every 10-14 days; some hobbyist only feed large prey items once a month.

Feed freshly killed or frozen appropriately prey items of appropriate size such as rats, mice, or other small mammals

Temperature

Rely on outside temperatures to regulate body temperature.

Ambient temperature should be 75-85 °F with basking spot of around 90 °F

Temperatures should never drop below 70°F

Two thermometers should be used to monitor temperatures

Lighting

Nocturnal and do not require access to ultraviolet B (UVB) rays to metabolize vitamin D3 and calcium.
Lighting is largely for viewing and not required

Humidity

Do best at humidity levels of 50-70%

Improper humidity will lead to chronic poor sheds and possible respiratory infections

Maintain humidity by misting the enclosure several times per day and providing appropriate bedding like coconut fiber or wood bark

Measure humidity levels with a hygrometer

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