



## Husbandry Requirements for Corn Snakes.

Corn snakes originally come from North America and come from the semi arid scrublands of California and Arizona.

### Size of vivarium

General dimensions for a snake should be : Length – minimum 1 x total length of snake, Width – minimum ½ total length of snake and sufficient height to allow branches for the snake to climb through.

### Temperature Gradient:

All reptiles need a temperature gradient in their vivarium: i.e. one end cooler than the other so that they can then select where they are most comfortable to achieve their Preferred Body Temperature (PBT). Heat lamps should therefore be placed at one end of the vivarium not on the side.

Corn Snake temperature range: 25 –30 °C (21°C at night).

UVB light: This is advised for Corn Snakes particularly if at risk of or showing signs of Metabolic Bone Disease. Bulbs should provide 6% UVB and need to be changed every 3 - 6 months.

Photoperiod: Lights should be kept on for 12 hours a day leaving a 12 hour 'night' period but it is even better if the photoperiod mimics that of their natural habitat.

Diet: Corn Snakes are carnivores and should be fed small baby mice ('pinkies') up to adult mice depending on size.

Water: Provide a large bowl of water with easy access in and out – this will also keep humidity levels at a good level as Corn Snakes require 30-70% humidity. It is especially important when shedding to provide good levels of water to bask in and keep humidity levels at the high end of this scale. A piece of damp towel at this time will also facilitate starting the shed.

### Environmental enrichment:

A hide should always be provided – preferably two, one at the warm end of the vivarium and one at the cool end so the dragon can use whichever is at the most comfortable temperature.

Corn snakes enjoy branches to climb through to give some variety – some of the branches should be high and nearer the UV source for basking. Hot rocks immediately under the heat lamp or hide are not a good idea as they can get too hot and cause burns.

Newspaper is a good floor lining or substrate as it is easy to clean and to monitor urinary and faecal levels produced.

