

Corn Snake (Red Rat Snake)
Pantherophis (Elaphe) guttata guttata

Family: Colubridae

Locale: North America, most common in southeast, southern New Jersey through Florida, west to central Louisiana and southwestern Texas

Habitat: Woodlands and fields (wherever rodents live)

Average Size: 2.5-5 feet, record 6 feet

Average Life Span: 21 years

Activity: Diurnal

Captive care: 20-30 gal aquarium; substrate: newsprint, paper towels, Carefresh; water bowl large enough for soaking; hide box. If using rack system, adults can be kept in pairs or trios in blanket boxes.

Temperature: 75-85°F

Lighting: No special lighting needed.

Diet: Mice (pinky, fuzzy, weanling, depending on size of snake; food item should be as big around as fattest part of snake); readily takes frozen-thawed; feed once a week, 1-3 food items per feeding.

Breeding: Brumation between December to mid-February at 63 to 72°F

Breeding to egg laying: ≥1 month

Clutch size: 5 to 34; average: 12

Incubation: 9-12 weeks depending upon temperature (60-65 days at 82 °F)

Temperament: Docile, likes to be held

Notes: Good beginner snake; hatchlings are escape artists so enclosure must be secure.

References:

Bartlett, P.P., Griswold DVM, B. and Bartlett, R.D. 2001. Reptiles, Amphibians, and Invertebrates, an identification and care guide. Barron's Educational Series, Hauppauge, NY. 279pp.

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Love, Kathy and Bill Love. 2006. Corn snakes: the Comprehensive Owner's Guide. BowTie Inc. Irvine, CA. 227 pp.

Sonderberg, Don. 2006. Corn Snakes in Captivity. E.C.O. Herpetological Publishing & Distribution. 115 pp.

Compiled by Eileen Underwood. Updated 8/2016.



Photo: Eileen Underwood



Range map:

<http://www.uga.edu/srelherp/snakes/elagut.htm>