



# Corn Snake

*Pantherophis guttatus*

Natural History



Upper: adult Corn snake feeding on a mouse.

Description: Non-venomous and mild-mannered. Large brown and red-orange spots run along the back side of the body, while the underside typically has a black and white checkered pattern. The average adult commonly ranges in length between 18-44 inches, with males usually being larger than females.



Communication: Corn Snakes use their tongues and chemical receptors in their mouths to smell. During the mating season, males give off pheromones that are detected by females. Communication is rare outside of mating season, as they are solitary animals.

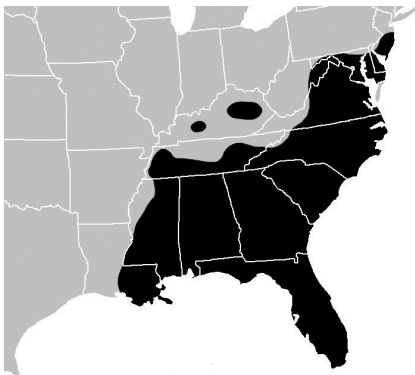
Breeding: Female Corn Snakes are mature at 16-18 months and are "oviparous" which means they lay eggs. Corn snakes mate in April-June and about one to two months later the female will lay about 10-15 eggs in one clutch. She tends to lay them in stumps, logs, or burrows that are warm and humid. The young snakes hatch two to three months later.

Distribution: Corn Snakes are found throughout the eastern and southern central United States and into northern Mexico.

Habitat: This snake can be found in a wide variety of habitats. They prefer areas with rocks and logs for nesting and basking. Corn snakes are typically found in deciduous forests, fields, grassy areas, and in suburban areas near homes and barns. They may be found in mountains up to about 1800 meters in elevation.

Diet: Corn snakes are primarily rodent-eating constrictors, but they will also eat birds, bird eggs, and small reptiles and amphibians.

Lifespan: It is currently unknown what the Corn snakes' typical lifespan is in the wild, though they may live past 22 years in captivity. Males tend to live slightly longer than females. Adult corn snakes have very few predators and most are killed by bigger snakes or hawks. Not many survive to old age.



Conservation Status: Currently the Corn Snake is listed as Least Concern for conservation status. Their largest threat is to habitat destruction and illegal collection for the pet trade.