
Corn Snake

Pantherophis guttatus

Class: *Reptilia*

Order: *Squamata*

Family: *Colubridae*

Characteristics: L: 24-27 in. Wt: About 2 lbs. Usually orange or brownish yellow. Coloration reflects the environment. One lung, no limbs or pelvis, a single row of belly scales as wide as body- each scale corresponding to a single vertebra. Brain case is the only rigid part of skull. Sheds skin every one to three months.

Behavior: Slow and docile. Will not attack; will stand ground when surprised. Vibrates tail or eject feces and foul smelling liquid in self-defense. Kills active prey by constriction- biting and strangling. Swallows food whole, head first. Hibernation varies with climate. Diurnal during spring but nocturnal during summer. Feeds only every few days. Consumes animals considered as pests to humans

Reproduction: Sexually mature at 18-36 months. Mates from March to May. Male follows female for hours before crawling over her back. Oviparous. Deposits clutches of 10-30 eggs hatching July-September. 10-15 inch precocial hatchlings must fend for themselves immediately after birth. First shed occurs in 7-10 days.

Diet:

Wild: Small mammals, birds' eggs.

Zoo: Pinkies or baby mice.

Conservation: Not endangered though listed in Florida as a Species of Special Concern because of habitat loss, capture for pet purposes and being killed mistakenly as copperheads.

FYI: -There are 2,700 snake species total.

-Exceeding variation of colors in captive snakes resulting in lack of camouflage may contribute to loss in the wild.



Range & Habitat:

South East United States and all continents but Australia in grassy areas, fields, farms, along waterways.



Lifespan: up to 20-25 years in captivity, 6-8 yrs years in the wild.

Special Adaptations:

Quadrate bone allows jaw to unhinge temporarily for consuming larger prey.

IUCN Conservation Status:

LC (Least Concern)

