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animal fact file

corn snake

NAME: *Pantherophis guttatus*

FROM: North America

EATS: Rodents

SIZE: Up to 5 feet in length

AGE: Up to 23 years

SEXING: Males and females are very similar

HOUSING: Best kept alone

The name "Corn Snake" is a holdover from the days when southern farmers stored harvested ears of corn in a wood frame or log building called a crib. Rats and mice came to the corn crib to feed on the corn, and Corn Snakes came to feed on the rodents.

Their docile nature, reluctance to bite, moderate adult size, attractive pattern, and comparatively simple care make them popular pet snakes.

Prey is killed by constriction. They are good climbers and may scale trees in search of birds and bats although they prefer to be on ground level.

They bask on warm days to soak up the heat of the sun, a process known as brumation.

