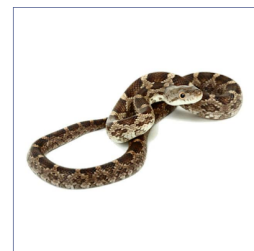


## Rat Snake

Scientific Name: *Pantherophis Obsoletus*

### Brief Description:

Rat snakes come in wide-variety of wonderful colors and patterns making them a very popular pet. Rat Snakes belong to both the Elaphe genre of the Colubridae family. They are also native to temperate and subtropical areas of North America, Asian and Europe. This specie is very easy to care for, more so, than most species.



**Average Size:** Hatchlings are approximately eight-to-ten inches. Adults are typically three-to-five inches.

**Average Life Span:** The average life span is approximately fifteen years with proper care.

### Feeding:

Feeding your Rat Snake is a very simple, straight-forward, process. However, you have adhere to a few guidelines and principles as mentioned below:

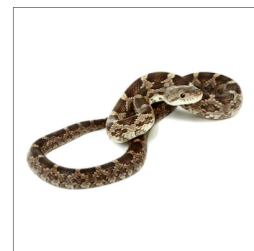
- Feed you snake appropriately sized prey. The food items should be no bigger than the snakes
- Corn snakes can happy eat mice their entire lives.
- As the size of your snake grows, the size of your food offerings should grow as well.
- Do not handle your snake for at least a day after feeding as this can lead to regurgitation.
- Be very cautious here, Snakes may become over-stimulated by the smell of food and may acci
- Due to veracious appetites, Snakes are pretty easy to convert to frozen/thawed ore-killed r
- NEVER leave a live rodent unattended with ANY snake.

## Rat Snake

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### Housing:

Snakes, are one of the few species that would prefer to be housed in small enclosure as a large habitat often leads to a stressed and overwhelmed snake. Fortunately, adult corn snakes do not require an elaborate setup. However, the more stuff you have as decorations, the more cleaning and disinfecting you will have to do. Continue reading to learn more about proper housing for your pet snake.



- Can be a plastic sweater box, such as those by Rubbermaid.
- Melamine racks are quite good.
- Freedom Breeder cages.
- Commercially available plastic-type cages, such as those from Vision Herp.
- Glass aquariums and tanks with screen tops also work well.
- Juvenile Corns seem to do well in large or elaborate enclosures
- An adult corn should be housed in an enclosure thirty-six inches, by eighteen-inches, by twelve inches.
- Snakes are known escape artists, so the enclosure has to be secure.
- Enclosure must allow for proper thermal gradient.

### Maintenance:

Compared to some other pet's Rat Snakes are relatively easy to care for.

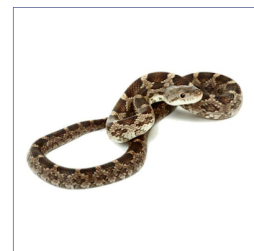
- Provide fresh clean water, everyday.
- Ensure correct temperatures.
- Once a month, provide a deep cleaning and sterilize the environment any decorations.
- As for bedding, Aspen bedding works very well.

## Rat Snake

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- Provide fresh clean water, everyday.
- Ensure correct temperatures.
- Once a month, provide a deep cleaning and sterilize the environment any decorations.
- As for bedding, Aspen bedding works very well.
- Spot clean enclosure as necessary.
- Remove feces, uneaten prey and rates as soon as possible
- Clean and disinfect water bowl, weekly.
- Remove all cage items for disinfection and cleaning, every thirty days.

### Temperatures:

Keeping your pet snake comfortable is an absolute must. Below we provide you with all the details will need to accomplish this.

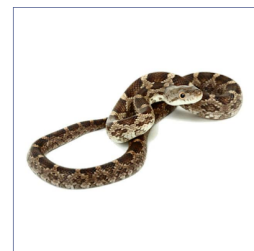
- Basking spot of eight-eight-to-ninety °F.
- An ambient temperature of seventy-to-seventy-five °F. Should not fall below seventy °F.
- You MUST KNOW the temperatures in which you are keeping your snake! DON'T GUESS!
- Monitor temperatures using a digital indoor/outdoor thermometer with a probe.
  - o Stick thermometer to the inside of the cage on the cool end.
  - o Place the probe on the warm end.
- Heat you cage with under-cage heating pads, ceramic heat emitters or basking bulbs
- Use thermostats, rheostat and timers to control your heat source.
- Do not use hot rocks.

## Rat Snake

Scientific Name: Pantherophis Obsoletus

### Humidity:

Fortunately, corn snakes are very low maintenance when it comes to humidity requirements. However, if incomplete or stuck sheds are noticed, humidity can be raised slightly by providing a humidity box.



### Lighting:

Supplemental lighting is not a requirement for this species, but if used should run on a twelve-twelve cycle, meaning twelve hours on and twelve hours off. Continuous bright light is stressful to snakes.

### Water and Accessories:

- Always make fresh water available to your Corn Snake.
- Corn Snakes do not soak regularly in their water bowls.
- For juvenile animals a one-inch deep bowl will suffice.
- Clean and disinfect water bowl as necessary.
- Keep a spare water bowl on hand while one is being cleaned.

### Reproductive:

- Corn snakes reach sexual maturity anywhere from eighteen months to three years of age.
- Breeding season ranges from November to May.
- Start with a brumation period and subject snakes to forty-five-to-fifty-five °F for sixty-to-
- Stop all feeding two weeks prior to brumation.
- Snakes should be in perfect health before any breeding.

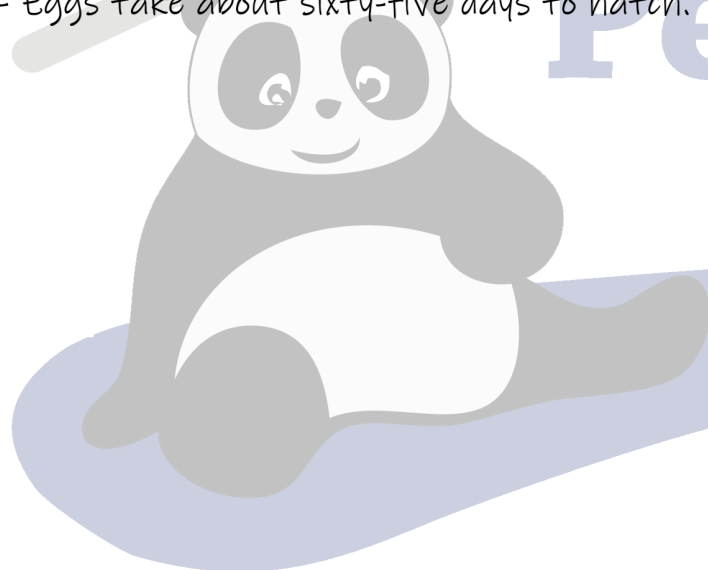
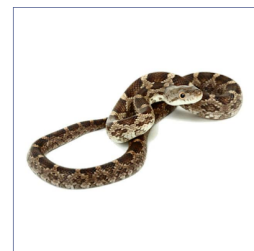


## Rat Snake

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### Reproductive: (con't)

- Introduce the female into the males cage.
- Females shed fourteen-to-twenty days after ovulation and eggs are laid within thirty-days.
- Clutch size is usually about six-to-twelve eggs.
- Females may lay more than one clutch per year.
- Incubation temperatures of eight-two-to-eighty-five °F.
- Eggs take about sixty-five days to hatch.



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