

# Cornelia



## Species

Corn snake (*Pantherophis guttatus*)

## Habitat

Native to North America, corn snakes are often seen hunting the rodents that live in cornfields, which is how they got their name.

## Care

Cornelia lives in a 4ft long vivarium, which has a hot end for basking and a cooler end for chilling out. She has hides at both ends, a tunnel to slither through, vines to climb along and substrate to bury herself in.

## Food

Cornelia is fed a medium mouse once a week. These are bought frozen. She only needs to eat once a week as it takes her this long to digest her food.

## Characteristics

Cornelia has classic corn snake colouring of black, brown, red and orange. Her underbelly is chequered black and white. She is a constrictor snake, which means she would squeeze her prey in the wild, rather than bite it.

## Why we love Cornelia

Cornelia is gentle, calm and a little bit cheeky. She likes to entertain people by pretending to be a belt or, on one occasion, trying to steal someone's flip flop off their foot. We're not sure why she wanted it, as she doesn't have feet!

*Read Cornelia's story on the next page...*

## Cornelia's story



Cornelia is a lovely, mellow snake who has been part of the Lion Learners family for a long time. She is about 15 years old. This is fairly old for a corn snake. In the wild, their lifespan is only 8 years, but in captivity this can rise to 20 years.

Corn snakes are one of the most sociable, calm and docile types of snake – and Cornelia's friendly, laidback nature makes her extremely popular. She is very tame and inquisitive and loves to meet new people and make them smile!

Holding a snake for the first time is an amazing experience, however old you are. Cornelia is fascinating to watch and feels ultra smooth as she slides between your fingers. Her skin is dry and her tongue flicks in and out as she glides round your hand or arm – this is just her way of smelling.

Cornelia's gentle nature makes her a great choice for nursery visits, parties and care homes. She's even helped some people conquer their snake phobias!

