#020313
Caramel Het Amel (Butter)
Female
d.o.h. 2010
48″ long on Jan. 31, 2013

This 2010 female Caramel Het for Amel (butter) is now 48″ long, feeding on frozen/thawed adult mice. She brumated (hibernated) from October 10, 2012 to January 31, 2013.

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Caramel (no aka)

Most Commonly Used Name: Caramel
Mode of Genetic Inheritance: Recessive
Morph Type: Single Recessive Mutation
Eye Color: Black pupil & *body ground colored* iris

At first glance, Caramel mutants are not usually attractive – since gold or brown color actions of this gene mutation essentially replace the rich red tones predominant in most corn snakes. Aside from their general appearance, the Caramel mutation has some unusual genetic properties (compared to most recessively inherited corn snake gene mutants), but this mutation is essential if you wish to eventually create yellow corns.
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The most notably atypical characteristic of this mutation is that of heterozygous (*Het* for short) Caramels often displaying *mutation markers* (exhibiting traits of the homozygous phenotypes). It is not typical for out-crossed F^1 corns to show markers of their gene mutation, but from pairing a Caramel corn to a non-mutant corn of any other color and/or pattern, *most* of the out-crossed F^1 progeny will exhibit a blush of gold or yellow as neonates. In other words, most of the first generation babies will not look like typical wild-type corns. As adults, most corns that are Het for caramel are easily distinguishable from Hets of virtually all other F1 recessive out-crosses, but since this is not always the case, the co-incidental caramel coloration is thought to be the result of polygenic traits derived from the first non-mutant corns that were paired with Caramel types. If this is the case, it demonstrates the power of polygenetic forces by the persistence to show these colors after hundreds of out-crossings – since the late 1980s when this mutation was first discovered.

What to expect:
Caramel mutants are relatively lackluster, when compared to some of their compound products (i.e. Butters and Ambers). There are still other corn snake mutations (both color and pattern) whose out-crossed progeny will have modified appearance when paired with Caramel mutants, so do not be afraid to mix this seemingly “lazy” genetic color mutation with other corn snake mutations. Like most corn snake mutants, both adult and neonate Caramels are highly variable, spanning the color spectrum from brown to gold, and some even exhibit green tones. As neonates, many Caramels are similar to hatchling Anery corns, but as they mature, the typical caramel coloration slowly manifests. Some of our lines have obvious blotch borders, but most have borders that are barely discernible and some have no blotch borders.

Important Note:
These images are not renderings of the actual animals being offered, (except for uniquely offered snakes found in the SURPLUSsection of this web site). We do not provide pictures of individual hatchling snakes for sale, nor do we recommend that you ever choose a new pet based on an image of its neonatal form. Corns change so dramatically from hatchling to adult, they will NEVER have the same colors or contrasts throughout maturity. While most of the snakes we produce will mature to resemble the featured adult image(s) on our web site, unlike manufactured products that are respectively clones of each other, the nature of polygenic variation results in each animal being similar but not identical to others of its morph. The snake we select for you may not mature to be identical to the pictured examples, but will be chosen based on our experience of observing which neonates will mature to properly represent their respective morph. We take this responsibility very seriously, and therefore publish the guarantee that we will exchange yourSMR snake if it does not mature to be like our advertised examples.