

Coral Snow (no aka)

Most Commonly Used Name: Coral Snow

Mode of Genetic Inheritance: Recessive & Dominant

Morph Type: Mutation Compound ( Anery & Amel) + Dominant Coral Mutation (Strawberry?)

Eye Color: Red pupil

\*\* These are Generic Coral Snows with undetermined hobby bloodlines, but true Coral Snow Mutants.

*Before describing Champagne Corns, first, a brief history on the Coral Snow.*

Back in the 1980s when corn snake herpetoculture was in its infancy, Snow corns that had a pink or coral cast were called Coral Snows. Early in Corn Snake Herpetoculture, Snow corns were not as variable in color as they are toDAY. At the time when pink/coral ones were dubbed Coral Snows, it was only common to see snows in two tones of white; crisp white (aka: bone white Snows), or Coral. Back then, prediction of the coral coloration was hit-and-miss (some would start out with a blush of pink, but turn white on white) so in the absence of genetic data to explain the origin of the pink and/or coral colors, the name Coral became somewhat obscure from the hobby for many years. After that era, Jim Stelpflug at Southwest Wisconsin Reptiles was one of the first to predictably reproduce coral colored snows, and even though pinkish snows were still seen in the hobby, Jim was reliably reproducing them - and was even able to intensify the coral coloration in most. At that time, we mistakenly believed the gene mutation responsible for pink or coral colored snows was the result of Snow corns that also possessed the Hypo A mutation. While some pink or coral colored Snows that were also Hypo mutants DID show a blush of pink, their pink cast rarely intensified to be remarkable in appearance, as is the case with Coral Snow Mutants of toDAY. Pink and Green Snows were not rare back then, and some of those demonstrated deeply saturated pink coloration. Again, the origin of that phenotype was (and to an extent, still is) poorly understood. In so much as most of the early Coral Snows originated from Jim Stelpflug at SWR (Southwest Wisconsin Reptiles), it appeared obvious that some mutation he had in his genetic inventory was causing his to be more colorful than others. The exaggerated pink/coral coloration is now believed by some to be the demonstration of the dominant-type mutation (Strawberry) that was also discovered/developed by Jim Stelpflug. This is believed to be THE color mutation responsible for the rich colors, if not ONE OF such mutations. I have not personally had reproductive results to validate this theory, and in a hobby that has so very many hidden mutations, perhaps Strawberry is just one of such mutations to cause such colors? Breeding trials are still ongoing in discovering more about this interesting (if not mysterious) mutation. It is not mysterious in terms of inheritance, but in that some non-Strawberry corns can exhibit similar colors - without being Coral/Strawberry mutants. It is not a given that every corn snake displaying inordinate amounts of pink or coral is a Strawberry mutant, but so far, breeding trials between the three most notable Coral Snow types (Salmon, Champagne, and Neon) have demonstrated that they are all at least elementally allelic (breeding any combination of the three morphs renders Snow corns that have extreme saturation of pink, coral, or both). Hence, there may be other gene mutations or gene modifiers involved in one or all of those morphs, but they at

least share the same mutational foundation that causes them to look remarkably pink/coral – unlike classic white-on-white Snows.

The *general* conclusion in the corn snake industry at this time is that any Snow corn that is also a Strawberry Mutant (thereby exhibiting a color predominance of pink and/or coral) is a Coral Snow. Any additional reference to familial origins (i.e. Salmon, Champagne, or Neon) is merely a lineage descriptor that may prove valuable if and when it is determined that one or more of those bloodlines actually possesses additional mutations, or strongly influencing polygenic traits.

#### Coral Snow:

The pink or coral Snows we market as Coral Snows are generic, relative to the three popular breeds of Coral Snows in the hobby toDAY. That is to say, when individual family lineage is known, we market them as representatives of their respective bloodline (ie: purely Salmons OR purely Champagnes OR purely Neons), but if their respective bloodline is in question or the aggregate of unknown Coral types, they are sold as Coral Snows. Hence, since it has been demonstrated that when pairing any combination of these three bloodlines of coral and/or pink colored snows together, pink and/or coral phenotypes result, we consider all to be in the general morph family of Coral Snow Corns, and are therefore all Coral-Type Mutants. Collateral traits often distinguish one of these family bloodlines from the others, but every time that we are aware, breeding any of these together results in remarkably pink and/or coral colored snows that look nothing like their classic Snow cousins. Therefore, Coral Snow is a Morph Family, of which there are currently three popular bloodline origins; Salmon, Champagne, and Neon. Our Coral Snows are guaranteed to be authentic Coral genotypes – believed to be homozygous for the Strawberry Mutation. Specifically known family lines (Salmons, Champagnes, or Neons) have higher market prices than the basic Coral Snow.

#### What to expect:

Like virtually all Snow corns that exhibit neither of their root mutations (Amel and Anery), Coral Snows have red eyes – since they possess NO melanin. Occasionally, dark features exist in the eyes that appear black. They are eye tissue oones that do not reflect light, thereby appearing to be black, but not because of melanin – which cannot exist in any part of a true snow corn's body. Expect carotenoid yellow to manifest throughout maturity, and of course they will have varying shades of pink and/or coral colors that will intensify with as they age. In most basic Coral Snows, males have deeper coloration than females, but in some of the sub-morphs (i.e. Salmon, Champagne, Neon), females can have equal or greater color saturation – the result of selective breeding. Coral snows never display any other colors (including carotenoid yellow) as hatchlings, but as they mature, in addition to exhibition of carotenoid yellow, some will develop pale green or bright yellow blotch margins.

**Important Note:**

The advertising images on our web site are representations of the average adult example of each morph. These images are not renderings of the actual animals being offered, (except for uniquely offered snakes found in the SURPLUS section 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 your SMR snake if it does not mature to be like our advertised examples.