

## Show & Tell



Amel, Butter and Wild-type Scaleless mutants. A mutation inherited from the inter-species hybridization of a Great Plains Ratsnake (aka: Emory's Ratsnake), *Pantherophis emoryi*, and a Corn snake, *Pantherophis guttatus*, these three Scaleless corn snakes dramatize a hidden color beauty not seen in their scaled counterparts. Most of the scales are missing on Scaleless mutants of this species, but we're fortunate that they have varying degrees of belly scalation (aka: scutes) for more functional locomotion. Without belly scales, a completely scale-less corn could be compared to a "fish out of water" with regard to the flailing and uncoordinated movement that would result? We are not suggesting that crossing any Emory's Ratsnake with any Corn Snake would render scale-less snakes. It just happened that both of the original snakes of these cousin species possessed one copy of the paired gene copies for the mutation, Scaleless.