

Eastern Hog-nosed Snake



With a slightly upturned snout, it's easy to see how the Eastern Hog-nosed Snake got its name. These thick-bodied snakes have a unique defensive behavior.

When threatened, Eastern Hog-nosed Snakes will inhale

deeply to flatten their head and neck into a cobra-like hood. Striking motions and loud hissing sounds are used to warn and scare potential predators. If this doesn't work the Eastern Hog-nosed Snake has one more trick- playing dead!

Like a skilled actor, these snakes know how to put on a show. They will often vomit up their last meal, go into convulsions and drag their cloaca over their body to smear feces and a musky odor before rolling over onto their backs. The snake ends up laying belly up with their tongue out, looking (and smelling!) very dead. Once the threat is gone, the snake will right itself and slither away.

Nicknamed "Michigan Cobra" or "Puff Adder," these dramatic snakes are often misidentified as venomous species. Eastern Hog-nosed Snakes are non-venomous and harmless to people when left alone.



Color Change

Eastern Hog-nosed Snake colors are extremely variable. Juvenile snakes have a pattern of irregular dark blotches. This pattern may remain



on some adults or fade completely to a solid gray, black or brown.

Whatever the color, look for Eastern Hog-nosed Snakes around the Visitor Center area and the sandy soils of CNC's Ridge property.

Stop by the Visitor Center Office for program information.

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