

Venomous Snakebite: What To Do

By Dale Schoentrup

1. **REMAIN CALM** - Remember in the United States snakebite deaths are rare when proper medical care is given.
2. **GET TO THE HOSPITAL AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE** - Anti-venom is the only treatment for envenomation, and because some people are allergic to anti-venom, it should only be given in a fully equipped medical facility.
3. **REMOVE JEWELRY** - Rapid progression of swelling makes rings, watches, and bracelets a real problem.
4. **KEEP THE BITE ABOVE THE HEART** - Elevate bite above heart if possible, this may help with pain and swelling. Treat for shock if necessary.
5. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO KILL OR IDENTIFY THE OFFENDING SNAKE** - This wastes time that should be used getting to medical care. Identification of the snake for anti-venom is not needed in Indiana.
6. **CALL 911** - If possible as you are waiting for the ambulance call or have someone call the poison control and the hospital to let them know you are on your way.

Indiana Poison Control Center

Phone # (800) 222-1222 Toll-free

Emergency Phone # (317) 962-2335 Help line

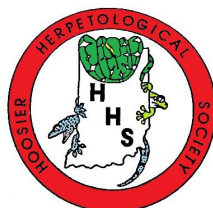
Kentucky Reptile Zoo

Director: Jim Harrison

200 L & E Railroad Rd.

Slade, KY 40376

Phone # (606) 663-9160



Timber Rattlesnake



Timber Rattlesnake

Average length of 40 to 54 inches

The Timber Rattlesnake is an Endangered Species in Indiana. The largest venomous snake in Indiana lives on dry forested old growth hillsides.



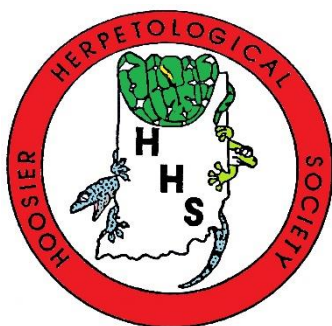
Northern Copperhead



Northern Copperhead

Average length of 24 to 36 inches

The Northern Copperhead is Indiana's most common venomous snake. It prefers dry, rocky areas, but can also be found in dry forested areas.

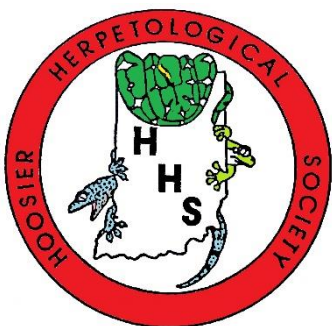


Eastern Massasauga



Eastern Massasauga
Average length of 19 to 25 inches

The Massasauga Rattlesnake is a small rattlesnake also an Endangered Species. Found in northern Indiana in marshy, swampy areas and bogs.



Western Cottonmouth



Western Cottonmouth

Average length of 25 to 40 inches

The Cottonmouth is not likely to be seen in Indiana. With two small populations in Dubois County and Harrison County. In Indiana it is an Endangered Species and is most likely extinct. The color patterns are easily confused with those of the northern or midland water snake.

