

# Snakes

## Be Wild Aware!

Utah is home to many different species and subspecies of snakes, several of which are venomous. Snakes are cold-blooded. They regulate their body temperatures by basking in the sun or retreating to the cool shade. Snakes hibernate during the winter under rocks and in burrows. In the summer they are most active at dawn and dusk. Snakes mainly eat rodents, birds, insects and other reptiles.

The venomous snakes in Utah have broad, triangular-shaped heads, and vertical eye pupils. There are heat sensory "pits" on each side of the snake's head between the nostrils and eyes. Most venomous snakes in Utah have rattles on their tails. Non-venomous snakes have longer snouts and round pupils. If you can't tell if the snake is venomous from a distance, leave it alone and treat it as if it were venomous.

People have been fascinated by and fearful of snakes for centuries. Snakes are depicted in ancient artwork and have been revered in worship and used in symbolism throughout the world. Under Utah law, indiscriminate killing of snakes and all other reptiles is prohibited. Although most encounters with snakes in Utah are not dangerous, it is important to learn how to keep yourself, your family and pets safe.

### To avoid conflicts:

- Never try to poke, handle, corner or harass a snake.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Look carefully where you place your hands and feet, especially in the summer.
- Wear closed-toed shoes while hiking.
- Supervise pets when outside and leash dogs while recreating.
- If you hear a snake's rattle, don't jump or panic. Try to locate where the sound is coming from before trying to move. Warn others if they are around.

It is against Utah law to allow dogs to harass wildlife.

[www.wildawareutah.org](http://www.wildawareutah.org)



Photo by: Stephanie Jochum-Natt, UHZ

### Non-venomous

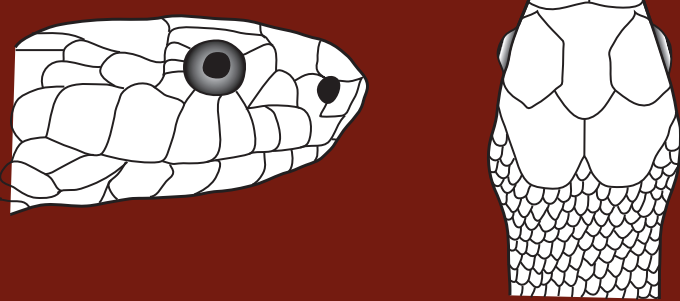
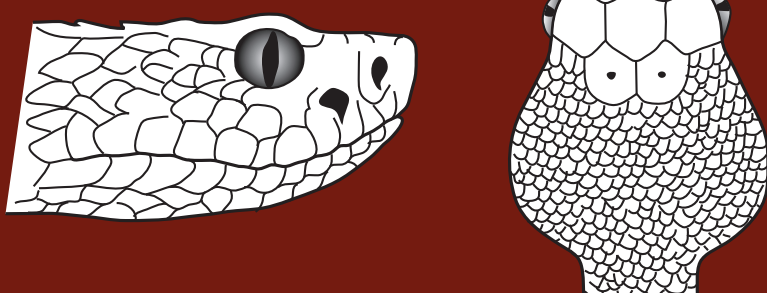


Photo by: UDWR

### Venomous



Design by Matthew Bates  
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If you have an encounter with aggressive wildlife in this area, please contact one of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources offices listed below.

If the encounter occurs after hours or on the weekend, please call the local police department or county sheriff's office, who can contact a conservation officer to handle the situation.

Salt Lake City (801) 538-4700  
Springville (801) 491-5678

