



Help Protect the Timber Rattlesnake

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Close-up of rattle.

New Hampshire's timber rattlesnakes are an extremely rare, endangered species. N.H. Fish and Game needs your help to protect this native snake.

What does a timber rattlesnake look like?

Timber rattlesnakes are generally uniformly black on top, or dark with brown blotches or crossbands, and yellowish below. Adults range from 30-60 inches long. The tail is blunt, with a rattle. Eyes have vertical (not round) pupils.

How can I tell for sure it is a timber rattlesnake?

The timber rattlesnake is the **only** New Hampshire snake with a rattle on its tail. Many common snakes will shake their tails rapidly, creating a rattle-like sound. Timber rattlesnakes are often confused with milk snakes, garter snakes, northern water snakes and black racers.



Milk snake



Garter snake



Northern water snake



Black racer

How dangerous are timber rattlesnakes?

While they are the state's only venomous snake, timber rattlesnakes are usually mild-tempered and will retreat if disturbed. **They will only strike if harassed or stepped on.**

What should I do if I see a timber rattlesnake?

- Leave it alone; do not handle or harm it.
- Call N.H. Fish and Game at **603-271-2461** or **603-271-3361**.
- Remember — it is against the law to harass or kill endangered timber rattlesnakes!

Learn more about timber rattlesnakes and other snakes at:
www.wildlife.state.nh.us

