

House Snake



What do we look like?

We are a species of small snakes. Males and females of our species differ quite a bit in size. In the wild, adult males can grow up to three feet long, while females can reach over five feet when fully grown. In captivity, however, we don't grow as large: males grow to between 24-30 inches while females grow to 36-48 inches. Our colors are usually a dark brown, but we can also be a lighter brown, red, orange, green, golden or black. We also have small white markings starting at the tips of our heads and running along the length of our head. Other species of House Snake even have spotted patterns or stripes.



Where we live is...

We are native to many different types of habitats on the continent of Africa. We are named House Snakes because we are commonly found living around human buildings, because we feed on the rodents living there. However, since we are a very adaptable snake, we can be found on the scrublands, woodlands, savannahs and even mountainous areas of South-Saharan Africa. Since we are cold-blooded reptiles, we often bask in the sun to raise our body temperatures. If we get too warm we can escape to the shady grasses and bushes in our habitats.



What do we eat?

Since we are carnivores, we only eat other living creatures. Some of the prey in our diets include: rodents like mice, voles and small rats, small lizards, geckos, skinks and even small bats. Like other snakes, we unhinge our jaws so we can swallow prey whole. We only eat once or twice a week and usually bask in the sunlight after a meal to digest our food.

Some cool facts about us...

- When laying eggs, our females lay a large clutch of 8-12 eggs and they develop quickly.



- We are a very popular snake among pet owners. We are very mild tempered, we breed very easily, and we are quite common to purchase.
- We can live up to 15 years if well taken care of.
- We are a constrictor, which means that when we bite down on prey, we quickly wrap our bodies around them and squeeze until they suffocate.



