

There have been recent sightings of the Eastern Hog-nosed Snake in Huron County.

The Huron Stewardship Council and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry are working together to raise awareness of the snake, its habitat, and behaviour.

This threatened snake is disappearing across its range and we need YOUR help to protect it.

### Habitat

Eastern Hog-nosed Snakes are found in a variety of habitats such as meadows, beaches and beach dunes, open forests and forest edges.

It is in these areas where their main food source (the American Toad) can be found, and burrowing is easy.

They prefer sandy conditions, which make it easy to burrow down into the ground to lay eggs and over winter.



## Conserving Eastern Hog-nosed Snakes in Ontario



ONTARIO  
PARKS



Rice Lake Plains  
Joint Initiative



Ontario  
Canada

Thank you to the Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative ([www.ricelakeplains.ca](http://www.ricelakeplains.ca)), specifically the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ganaraska Conservation, and Alderville First Nation for supplying this information.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO  
REPORT AN EASTERN HOG-NOSED  
SNAKE, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Huron Stewardship Council  
Office: (519) 524-8394 x 3286  
[staff@huronstewardship.ca](mailto:staff@huronstewardship.ca)**

# Eastern Hog-nosed Snake

(*Heterodon platirhinos*)



Photo by Todd Norris



All photos by Ken Towle unless otherwise noted



## ***Appearance & Behaviour***

- Flattened upturned snout used to burrow to find a suitable place for overwintering
- Dark patches on backside of neck
- Up to 115 cm long with a thick body
- Most often olive green with no pattern or a well defined dark blotchy pattern. May also be yellow, orange, or brown.
- Flares neck, hisses and mock strikes when scared
- When harassed by predators, the snake may roll onto its back and play dead
- Many know this snake locally as the “Puff Adder” or “Cobra”
- AT RISK from road mortality, habitat loss and human persecution.

## ***Breeding Habits***

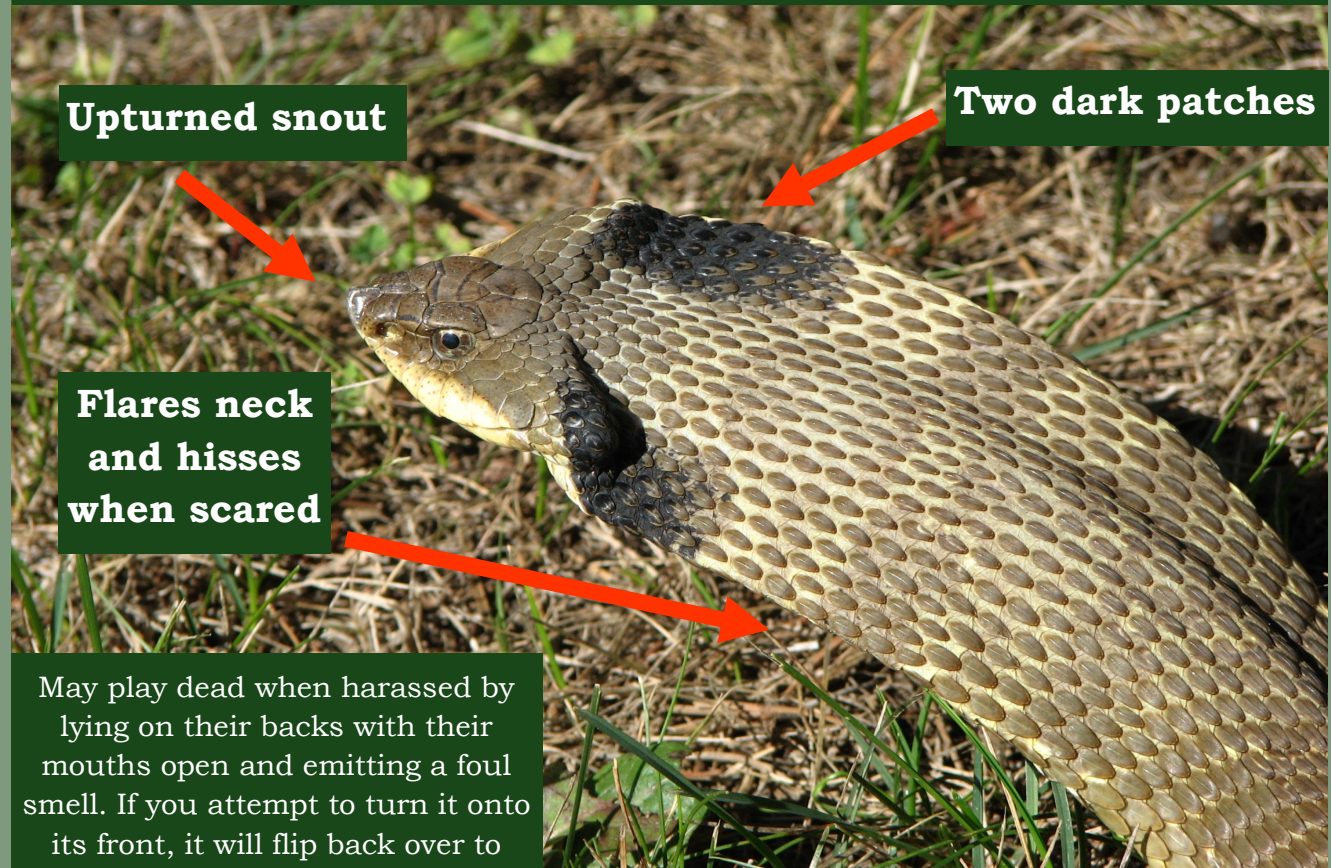
- Emerge from hibernation during late April to early May
- Mating takes place shortly after emergence, and eggs are laid in late June to early July
- Females use their upturned nose to dig a nest cavity in sandy soil in which they lay 8 to 13 small, round eggs
- Eggs generally hatch in late August with young measuring just 7 to 10 cm in length
- Hibernation takes place in late October

## **What do you do when you see a Eastern Hog-nosed Snake?**

**Please leave it alone and report its location to one of the contacts on this brochure.**

**If you have a camera, take a photograph of the snake.**

**HARMLESS \* NON-VENOMOUS \* THREATENED**



May play dead when harassed by lying on their backs with their mouths open and emitting a foul smell. If you attempt to turn it onto its front, it will flip back over to continue the illusion.



**Main food:  
toads!**

**Watch for  
snakes on  
roadways**

