**Eastern Milk Snake**

**Native:** Eastern and Central North America

**Predators:** cats, birds, racoons, skunk, turtles, and other snakes.

**Prey:** small rodents, frogs, and lizards.

**Facts:**

* Make many other subspecies of milk snakes the eastern milk have patterns of dark reds and grays on its body to mimic other venomous species of snake found in its territory like copper heads.
* Can be 2-3 ft in length
* Life span in the wild is 6-8 years
* Life span in captivity is 20+ years
* Non-venomous constrictors
* They are nocturnal hunters during the day they tend to hide under hollowed logs and under the leaf litter of the forest in which they dwell.
* The eastern milk snake is sometime misidentified by human beings as being a venomous or dangerous species of snake and killed do to this misunderstanding.

**Defense Mechanisms:**

* **Camouflage**
* **Biting:** while not venomous, the corn snake still has fangs which hurt
* **Mimicry** of more dangerous snake species

**Reproduction:**

* Once snakes mate, if the eggs are fertilized the female lays the eggs approximately a month later
* 10-24 eggs are laid, then the mother leaves
* Eggs are oblong and leathery, and in a flexible shell
* They are about 3 inches long when they first emerge

**Handling Tips:**

The Eastern milk snake can be very squirmy and quick to flee. Support her weight completely and or use a hook until she calms down. If she is too reved up you can put her in a display tank to take to a program.