**Amphiuma**

**Native to:** Southeastern United States

**Predators:** snake, turtles, large fish

**Prey:** small fish, crustaceans, tadpoles and fish eggs

**Facts:**

* Live and hide in vegetation of small ponds and wetlands during the day.
* They are a one of the longest species of salamander found in the U.S. they can reach lengths of almost 4 feet.
* They can live up to 250 to 30 years in captivity.
* Absorb and retain water through their skin
* Nocturnal
* Males generally have larger bodies and longer heads than the females.
* For their defense the they will use their jaw bones and muscles to produce a bite that can do some damage to a predator.
* The females will lay their eggs in small muddy pools and will sit on the eggs for up to 5 months to protect them from predators.
* They have the largest make up of DNA of most species of animal on the planet with up 25 times more than the human genome structure.
* They can survive droughts for up to years at a time by burring in the mud of the marshes and ponds that dry up during that time.

**Defense Mechanisms:**

* Biting
* Camouflage

**Reproduction:**

* Lay up to 100 to 200 eggs in muddy pools in the spring time.

**Handling Tips:**

This animal is \_\_\_ years old. This animal should be moved from it tank to a display tub using the fish net in the reptile room. Do not directly handle their bites hurt.