**Eyelash Viper**

**Vocabulary:**

**Native to:** Central and South America

**Predators:**

**Prey:** rodents, lizards, frogs, birds

**Facts:**

* Modified scales above the eyes are what gives it its name
* Can lure prey in by wiggling the end of its tail to imitate a worm “Caudal luring”
* Have been accidentally sent all over the world in bunches of bananas
* Pit vipers have triangular shaped heads and small glands behind their snouts which help them tell temperature differences in their surroundings
* Generally hang out in trees, and sit still for hours waiting for prey to pass it by
* Venom can be fatal for humans, but with proper medical treatment, most survive
* Smaller Species of pit viper generally ranging from 22 to 32 inches in length
* Found in higher elevations in mountainous rainforests 8,000 feet above see level and higher

**Defense Mechanisms:**

* “eyelashes” break up the traditional shape, and help camouflage
* Venom, hypodermic needle-like fangs

**Reproduction:**

* 2-20 live young
* Soft eggs which remain inside the mother until they hatch
* Mating pairs do a sort of cobra dance for several hours until the male pushes the female down and mates with her

**Handling Tips:**

Kat is a 2 year old female. This is a venomous snake which should not be handled.