Coral Snake

NATURAL HISTORY

Coral snakes exist in the southern range of many temperate regions of the United States. They can be found in pine and scrub oak habitats in parts of their range, but sometimes inhabit hardwood areas and pine flat woods that undergo seasonal flooding. They like to live under logs, in leaf litter, and in moist rotted wood and mulch. Coral snakes feed on other smaller snakes, both harmless and venomous. They also eat lizards, especially small skinks. They are also known to be cannibalistic, occasionally feeding on other coral snakes. The coral snake is mainly nocturnal, but can sometimes be seen in the early morning hours. Coral snakes are non aggressive. They actually are very shy and secretive. They account for less than 1% of snake bites in America. Their venom is a neurotoxin, which paralyzes the nerves. Coral snakes must chew on their prey to introduce venom into a victim’s system due to their small teeth.

Breeding Season

Females likely breed just once yearly, between March and May, but it is possible that they mate a second time in the fall, after laying their first brood of eggs. Males make multiple breeding attempts between March and May, competing with other males for access to females.

Tips on Snake Bites

Bring in the dead snake only if this can be done safely. Do not waste time hunting for the snake, and do not risk another bite if it is not easy to kill the snake. Be careful of the head when transporting it – a snake can actually bite for up to an hour after it’s dead.

Restrict movement. Immobilize the site of the bite and keep it below heart level to reduce the flow of venom.

Do not apply a tourniquet. Do not apply ice or cold compresses to a snake bite. Do not try to suck out the venom by mouth.

Keep your dogs on a leash! When out on a walk, keep your pets leashed to greatly reduce the chance of a negative wildlife encounter.

Call (830) 249-2456 For More Info