CottonMouth

NATURAL HISTORY

The cottonmouth is extremely aquatic and is most at home near or in the water. Its cousin the copperhead is frequently found away from actual water and can be seen deep in woodland habitats. The cottonmouth is also fond of frogs, mammals and other snakes. Although it may be commonly seen in lakes and ponds, areas frequented by humans, few human fatalities are recorded as a result of bites by cottonmouths. When a cottonmouth feels threatened, it will coil its body and open its mouth wide to expose the white coloration of the inside of its mouth. They may stand their ground against potential predators, including humans, by using defensive behaviors.

Breeding Season

The neonates are live-born, emerging from their mothers in late summer and early fall. The number per litter averages five snakes, with the snakes measuring 15-28 cm (6-11 in). Juvenile cottonmouths often look drastically different than their parents, as they may have a distinct pattern of black crossbands over a tan or grey background.

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