



## Arizona Mountain Kingsnake *Lampropeltis pyromelana*

**Description:** Arizona kingsnakes, or Sonoran desert kingsnakes are black, white and red. This snake uses these colors to mimic the deadly coral snake. A rhyme helps people tell the difference between the two. "Red on black friend of Jack, red on yellow, kill a fellow."

**Habitat:** They are found in arid and mountainous areas. Even though their colors don't always help them blend in, they are usually hiding under things like a log or a rock.

**Range:** They are found in the southwestern United States, but they are becoming more rare due to habitat destruction, and being removed for the pet trade.

**Life Span:** In the wild they can live up to 30 years; in captivity, however they can live longer.

**Natural Diet:** In the wild, they will hunt for rodents, other small mammals, and even birds.

**Zoo Diet:** At the zoo, they receive a diet of mice.

**Reproduction:** The females will begin to eat a lot to store fat up for breeding in the early spring. When breeding season starts, in April, males will fertilize the females and then in early May, they will lay their eggs and will have a gestation period of about 60 days.

**Z**Amarillo  
**ZOO**