



## Plains Hog-Nosed Snake *Heterodon nasicus*

**Description:** The Plains Hog-Nose is 15–25 inches long. They usually have gray or sandy coloration on their back and black on their belly. It gets its name from its upturned nose. Scales on a hognose are keeled, giving it a rough appearance.

**Range:** Southern Canada throughout the Midwestern states and into Mexico.

**Habitat:** Sandy, short grass prairies are perfect to blend in and hide away from predators and even prey.

**Life Span:** 15–20 years old in captivity.

**Natural Diet:** Small mammals and other reptiles.

**Zoo diet:** Mice once a week.

**Behavior:** Primarily diurnal, so they are most active at sunrise and sunset. Will feign death by turning itself over, emitting a foul musk and letting their tongue hang out of their mouth. If rolled upright in this state, they will often roll back as if insisting they really are dead.

**Reproduction:** Females lay a clutch of 5–25 white eggs in mid summer. They hatch approximately 2 months later.

**Conservation:** Least concern.