



# Yellow Rat Snake

*Pantherophis alleghaniensis*  
(Also known as the Eastern Rat Snake)

**Description:** The Yellow Rat Snake is a vibrant yellow color with several dark colored stripes down its back.

**Habitat:** Forested areas where they spend most of their time in the trees.

**Range:** Eastern and southeastern portions of the United States.

**Life Span:** 20 years in the wild.

**Natural Diet:** Rodents, birds, and eggs.

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

**Behavior:** They have been found in trees as high as 60 feet in search of nests. They can also be found in rodent burrows looking for prey.

**Reproduction:** Their size impacts their reproduction cycles. When a snake gets to be about half of its full size it has reached sexual maturity. They are egg layers and the young hatch in about 60 days.



**Conservation:**

Has not been assessed by the IUCN.

**Amarillo**  
**ZOO**