

LIBERTY WILDLIFE FACT SHEET

COMMON NAME:	Common Kingsnake
OTHER NAMES:	Az Desert Kingsnake; Yuma Kingsnake; California Kingsnake; NOT mountain kingsnake.
SPECIES:	<u><i>Lampropeltis getula</i></u> Family: Colubridae
DESCRIPTION:	<p>Length: Adults – 30” to 82”</p> <p>Nonvenomous. The color pattern of this snake varies depending on its habitat. Most Common Kingsnakes, however, have a pattern of alternating black and white bands, but these colors can vary to brown, white, cream or pale yellow, depending on the region found. Some individuals have black bellies while others are nearly all black.</p>
LIFE HISTORY:	<p>Life span: 10 to 15 years.</p> <p>Mates from March through June (some May to August) and has clutches of 4 to 20 eggs. The eggs usually hatch between 47 and 81 days. The young are born 8 to 13 inches in length and reach maturity in 3 to 4 years. The female lays the eggs and then leaves.</p>
RANGE:	Throughout the Sonoran, Mojave and Chihuahuan deserts south into Baja and Mexico.
HABITAT:	Wide variety: Forests, woodlands, marshes, grasslands, and chaparral or desert environments. It is often found near rocky outcrops and clumps of vegetation as well as under rocks, logs, and debris from sea level to 7000 feet.
NATURAL DIET:	The Kingsnake is famous for eating snakes including rattlesnakes, copperheads, and coral snakes. They are immune to the poison of venomous snakes and after exhausting its victims with its coils, simply eats its victim, while still alive. It also feeds on lizards, small birds and their eggs, small mammals, turtles, and frogs.
BEHAVIOR:	It is generally active in the morning and late afternoon but under very hot conditions will be active at night.
INTERESTING FACTS:	In defense or when agitated, will hiss, strike, and vibrate its tail. When attacked, it will roll into a ball with its head in the center, smearing its attackers with musk and feces.