



Snakes That Call
South Korea “Home”

See a Snake?
LEAVE IT BE!

*Call DPW Pest Control
DSN 753-7409 so it can be
properly identified and removed*

Snakes in Korea

Snakes do not ordinarily bother humans. Unless startled or injured, most snakes prefer to avoid contact. If you encounter a snake, stay calm and move away from the snake. They normally will not attack unless you try to catch or disturb them.

There are 16 species of snakes in Korea including 4 venomous snakes (Mamushi, Rock Mamushi, Ussuri Mamushi, and Tiger Keelback) and 12 non-venomous snakes (e.g. Rat Snake, Korean King Snake, Asian Keelback, Cat Snake, Water Snake, Black Headed Snake). In Korea the Russian Rat Snake and Black Headed Snake are designated as endangered species.

Most venomous snakes can be found in swamps, marshes, meadows, open woodland, and groups of boulders.

The bite of a nonvenomous snake is usually harmless. Their teeth are not adapted for tearing or inflicting a deep puncture wound, but rather grabbing and holding. Although the possibility of infection and tissue damage is present in the bite of a nonvenomous snake, venomous snakes present far greater hazard to humans.

Snake Avoidance

- 1. If you spot a snake near your residence or other occupied area immediately call DPW Pest Control (753-7409) so that they can respond and assess the hazard.**
- 2. If you spot a snake in nature, stop where you are and give it time to move on. In the event that it doesn't, let the snake be and go around it. Don't throw rocks, prod at it with a stick, or try to pick it up.**
- 3. Pay attention to the areas ahead of you. Whenever possible step on, rather than over, obstacles. When in vegetated areas stay on the trails when you can.**
- 4. Wear long, loose-fitting pants, hiking boots above your ankle whenever off trails and moving through vegetation.**
- 5. Don't place your hands, as well as your feet, anywhere you cannot see (e.g. ledges, hollowed out logs).**
- 6. When traversing rocky areas, high grass or thick shrubs, practice scanning the ground in front of you. Snakes have color patterns that camouflage them well.**



Examples of Nonvenomous Snakes in Korea



*Russian Rat Snake **



Cat Snake



*Black Headed Snake **



Water Snake



Korean King Snake



Steppe Rat Snake



Tape Snake



Asian Keelback

* Indicate Korean endangered snakes

Venomous Snakes in Korea

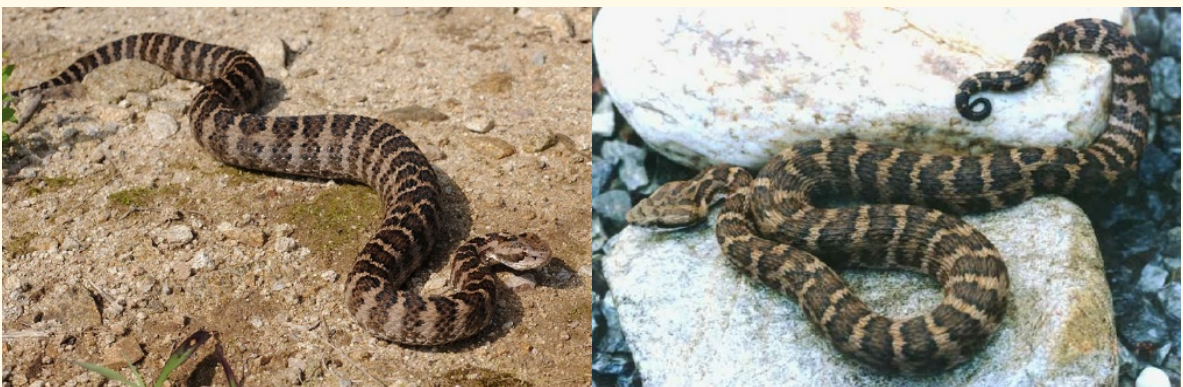
1. Mamushi

- Body Length: 40-60 cm (16-24 inches)
- The body color is usually dark brown with round patterns bordered with black; triangular head
- Hunts and eats mainly rodents, but also small birds, lizards, and insects
- Habitat: Swamps, marshes, meadows, open woodland



2. Rock Mamushi

- Body Length: 50-65 cm (20-26 inches)
- The body color is usually brown with horizontal stripes; triangular head
- Hunts and eats field mice, lizards, and frogs
- Habitat: Near streams, forests, and boulders



3. Ussuri Mamushi

- Body Length: 35-60 cm (14-24 inches)
- The body color is usually dark brown mixed with orange; triangular head
- Hunts and eats field mice, lizards, and frogs
- Red tongue
- Habitat: Swamps, marshes, meadows, open woodland



4. Tiger Keelback

- Body Length: 50-120 cm (20-47 inches)
- Unlike other venomous snakes that have venom in their front fangs, the Tiger Keelback has venom in rear molars.
- The body color is green with black and bright orange crossbars or spots
- Hunts and eats frogs and small fish
- Habitat: Swamps, marshes, meadows, and upland forest



If you are bitten by a snake

Call 911 (or local emergency number 119) if:

- There is any chance that the snake is venomous
- The person has difficulty breathing
- The person bitten loses consciousness

1. Note the Snake's Appearance (color, head, pattern)

- If you remember it, describe the snake to emergency staff (don't go chasing after it or try to keep it around).

2. Protect the Person while waiting for medical help:

- Move the person beyond the snake's striking distance
- Keep the wound below the heart (have person lie down).
- Keep the person calm and at rest, remaining as still as possible to keep possible venom from spreading.
- Cover the wound with a loose, clean cloth or sterile bandage if available.
- Remove any jewelry from the area that was bitten.
- Remove shoes if the leg or foot was bitten.

DO NOT:

- Cut a bite wound
- Attempt to suck out venom
- Apply tourniquet, ice, or water
- Give the person alcohol, caffeinated drinks, or any medication