

# Studying Wild Snakes at NC Zoo



For years, keepers have been called to relocate snakes on Zoo grounds. In 2015, they started gathering data on the relocated snakes as part of our Mark/Recapture Study.

Each captured snake gets measured, weighed and marked to avoid recording the same snake over and over. If the snake is large enough, a PIT tag is implanted under their scales (like micro-chipping a dog!) to also help identify them.

In 2015, 153 snakes were encountered here at the Zoo! Of those 153, 123 were PIT tagged.



## The 12 snake species and how many of each found in 2015:

- Copperhead (56)
- Eastern Rat (50)
- Black Racer (12)
- Northern Water (9)
- Eastern Garter (9)
- Timber Rattlesnake (5)
- Ringneck (4)
- Eastern Kingsnake (3)
- Worm snake (2)
- Eastern Hognose (1)
- Redbelly (1)
- Rough Green (1)

