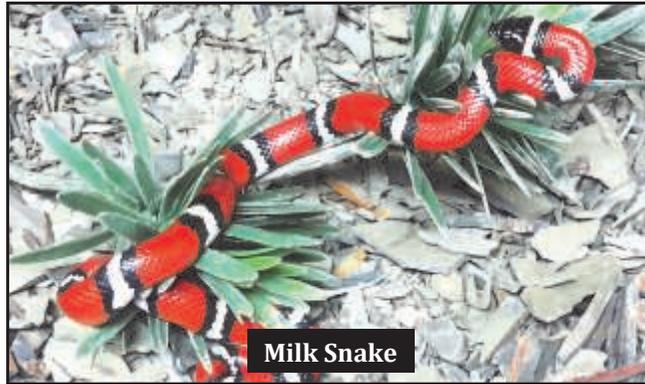
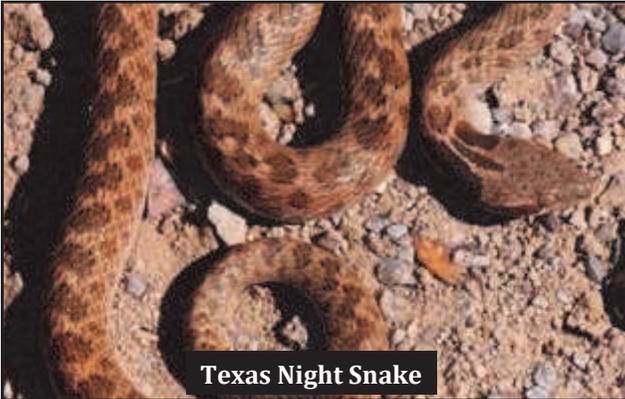




Western Diamondback Rattlesnake



Milk Snake



Texas Night Snake



Copperhead



Great Plains Rat Snake



Desert Kingsnake

Snakes in Terrell County



Gray-banded King Snake
(*Lampropeltis alterna*)

Sanderson Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 734
Sanderson TX 79848
432-345-2324
www.sandersonchamber.com





Sanderson Snake House ~ 432-345-2850

The Outback Oasis Motel in Sanderson, Texas, is unique, as motels go. Housed off the lobby of the office is a full-fledged snake house, with a collection of 35 species of snakes found in Terrell County and the Big Bend. Besides the several varieties of snakes, including a rare albino rattler, the star of the collection is the rare, Gray-banded King Snake, found in the immediate Terrell County area. Sporting bands of orange, gray, black and white, the non-venomous little serpent is much-sought after by collectors.

Most snakes don't make much noise unless agitated, and often seem lifeless. But Roy Engeldorf, curator and owner of the establishment, has a selection of rattlesnakes that begin to vibrate their tails when visitors get too close. The room of glass-front terrariums is soon abuzz with noise as the tail-shaking becomes frantic and the volume rises. It serves as a good lesson to the neophyte snake collector and the casual hiker in familiarizing them with the warning sounds they might encounter on the trail. Terrell County and the Big Bend are still wild places with rugged hills and an environment that makes it hard to detect snakes, who have perfected a good system of camouflage. Roy says that to avoid an unfortunate encounter with any snake when on the trail, just step back when you see one and make a wide detour around it. That way, neither you nor the snakes are harmed.

The snakes that are on display are just the "tip of the iceberg" of his collection. He also breeds snakes and reptiles and may at any time have a case of squirming babies. But, that portion of his collection is not on public display. However, you will be sufficiently entertained by what he does have on display, and he and wife Ruth are always ready to answer questions.

Sanderson Snake House - Outback Oasis Motel - 800 West US Hwy 90 - Sanderson, TX 79848 - 432-345-2850

For more information, stop by the Terrell County Visitor Center or call 432-345-2324.

Snake Species found in Terrell County

Non-venomous Snakes:

Trans Pecos Rat Snake (*Bogertophis subocularis subocularis*)
 Long-nosed Snake (*Rhinocheilus lecontei*)
 Black-tailed Rattlesnake (*Crotalus molossus*)
 Marcy's Checkered Gartersnake (*Thamnophis marcianus*)
 Black-necked Gartersnake (*Thamnophis cyrtopsis cyrtopsis*)
 Texas Night Snake (*Hypsiglena jani texana*)
 Gray-banded King Snake (*Lampropeltis alterna*)
 Sonoran Gopher Snake (*Pituophis catenifer affinis*)
 Great Plains Rat Snake (*Pantherophis emoryi*)
 Baird's Rat Snake (*Pantherophis bairdi*)
 Kansas Glossy Snake (*Arizona elegans elegans*)
 New Mexico Milksnake (*Lampropeltis triangulum celaenops*)
 Mountain Patch-nosed Snake (*Salvadora grahamiae grahamiae*)
 Desert Kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getula splendida*)
 Texas Night Snake (*Hypsiglena jani texana*)
 Mexican Hog-nosed Snake (*Heterodon kennerlyi*)
 Western Coachwhip (*Masticophis flagellum testaceus*)

Venomous Snakes:

Western Diamondback Rattlesnake (*Crotalus atrox*)
 Trans-Pecos Copperhead (*Agkistrodon contortrix pictigaster*)
 Mohave Rattlesnake (*Crotalus scutulatus*)
 Texas Coral Snake (*Micrurus tener tener*)
 Mottled Rock Rattlesnake (*Crotalus lepidus lepidus*)
 Prairie Rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis viridis*)
 Northern Black-tailed Rattlesnake (*Crotalus molossus molossus*)
 Photos courtesy of Roy Engeldorf, Wikipedia and sierraherps.com



Texas Coral Snake (*Micrurus tener tener*)