



Western Diamondback Rattlesnake *Crotalus atrox*

-Western Diamondback Rattlesnakes are found throughout the Southwest and are, by far, the most common rattlesnake encountered in Bandelier National Monument.

-Western Diamondback Rattlesnakes can be distinguished from most other rattlesnakes by a series of black and white bands just above their rattles.

-You can't tell how old a rattlesnake is by counting their rattles. They add a rattle with each molt (2 - 3 times/year) and lose older rattles.

-Western Diamondback Rattlesnakes can live to over 20 years.

-These rattlesnakes use venom to immobilize their prey that includes birds, reptiles, and small mammals. The venom is mainly hemotoxic and attacks the victim's blood system.

-Western Diamondback Rattlesnakes have heat sensing pits in their faces that help them find their warm blooded prey even in the dark.

-In the American Southwest, Western Diamondback Rattlesnakes account for more human bites than any other rattlesnake.



-The average length of an adult Western Diamondback Rattlesnake is 4 to 6 feet.

-Western Diamondback Rattlesnakes have been known to swim through water or climb a short distance into a tree when necessary to pursue prey.

-Like many rattlesnakes, these hibernate in groups in small caves or abandoned burrows.

-Western Diamondback Rattlesnakes give birth to live babies that begin to live independently shortly after birth.