

# Northern Water Snakes

Have YOU Spotted One Lately?



## Important Things to Know about Northern Water Snakes:

- ❖ They are **NOT** venomous.
- ❖ They average in size from 2 – 4 ½ feet long.
- ❖ Their coloring is typically brown, black and dark green.
- ❖ By nature, they do not want to confront humans. They would prefer to hide in brush, rocks and other foliage during the day.
- ❖ While they can swim, they typically only do so at night to hunt for food.

## What Should You Do if You See One?

- ❖ **Don't panic!** These snakes are actually beneficial to the environment, as they feed on small rodents and fish.
- ❖ **Leave the snake alone!** This snake does not prefer human interaction and generally just wants to get away from people. However, if it is picked up and/or feels threatened, it can bite to protect itself. Be sure children know they should not try to pick up or touch one of these snakes.
- ❖ **Talk to your family members and friends.** Even though these can be quite large in size, they are not a threat to humans. Please be sure your family and friends understand they should simply leave the snakes along and they should seek coverage and environmental protection.



Westfield Regional Health Department

<http://www.westfieldnj.gov/health>