

April

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CRITTER OF THE MONTH

Phylum:

Chordata

Class:

Reptilia

Order:

Squamata

Family:

Colubridae

Genus:

Pantherophis



Western Rat Snake

Characteristics

- Carnivore
 - Eats mice, rats, other snakes, frogs, lizards, squirrels, rabbits, opossums, songbirds, and bird eggs.
- Nocturnal
 - Most active during the night
- Mating & Breeding
 - May-June; 1 brood per year, 12-20 eggs per clutch
- *Fun Facts*
 - They are semi-arboreal; meaning they climb and hang out in trees
 - When threatened by predators they can produce a foul smelling musk
 - During the winter they will hibernate in dens with other snakes species, such as copperheads and timber rattlesnakes