



Harmless Hognose Snakes Impersonating Venomous Cobras

Hognose snakes are native to the USA and completely harmless. They have a broad head that often leads people to erroneously believe they are venomous. When threatened, the hognose snake inflates its head and spreads its neck, doing a very good impersonation of real cobra. If this fails, the hognose snake rolls onto its back and plays dead.

This 'cobra impersonating' bluff makes the snake look large and scary, but it can also cost it its life. When in the state of hysteria, associated with hoax cobras in news reports, scared people will kill it, thinking it is one of the phantom cobras.

The snake pictures below illustrate how a Hognose snake can be easily mistaken for a Cobra because of similar body posture or coloration. This is especially true if the person encountering the snake is scared, or if the ambient light is low.

**Venomous Cobras -
Not Native to the USA**



Spitting Cobra © Eric Grace

**Harmless Hognose Snakes -
Native to the USA**



Hognose Snake Playing Dead © Don Becker



King Cobra © Eric Grace



Hognose Snake Playing Dead © Don Becker



Spitting Cobra © Eric Grace



Hognose Snake © William Taylor



Monocled Cobra © Glades Herp Farm, Inc.



Hognose Snake © Don Becker



Spitting Cobra © Eric Grace



Hognose Snake © Don Becker



Formosa Cobra © Eric Grace



Hognose Snake © Don Becker



Black Pakistan Cobra © Eric Grace



Hognose Snake © Bill Love



Monocled Cobra © Al Coritz



Hognose Snake © Don Becker



Monocled Cobra © Al Coritz



Hognose Snake © Don Becker



Formosa Cobra © Eric Grace



Hognose Snake © Bill Love



King Cobra © Eric Grace



Hognose Snake © Don Becker



Banded Egyptian Cobra © Lady Viper



Hognose Snake © Sam Floyd



Spectacled Cobra © Al Coritz



Eastern Hognose Snake © David Northcott
Nature's Lens



Spectacled Cobra © Al Coritz



Hognose Snake © Don Becker



Banded Egyptian Cobra © Lady Viper



Eastern Hognose Snake © David Northcott
Nature's Lens



Spitting Cobra © Eric Grace



Hognose Snake © Don Becker



King Cobra © Eric Grace



Hognose Snake © Bill Love



Monocled Cobra © Jeff Quarles



Hognose Snake © David Northcott
Nature's Lens



Spectacled Cobra © Al Coritz



Hognose Snake © Don Becker



Egyptian Cobra © Lady Viper



Hognose Snake © David Northcott
Nature's Lens



Formosa Cobra © Eric Grace



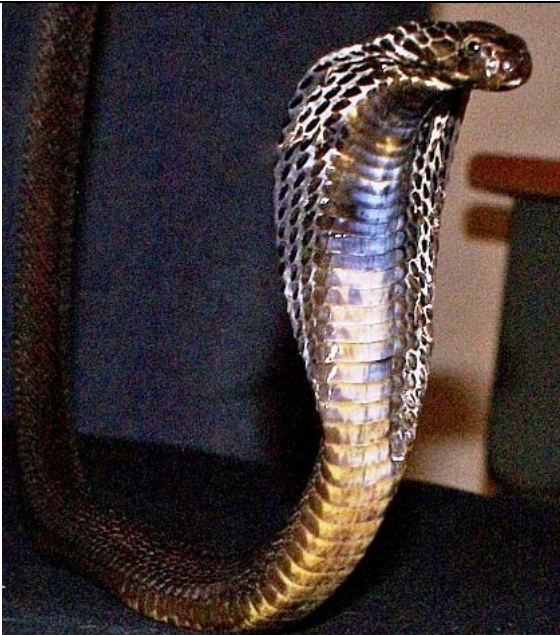
Hognose Snake © John Zegel



Thai Cobra © Rob Carmichael



Hognose Snake © Paul M. Kaczmarczik



Black Pakistan Cobra © Eric Grace



Hognose Snake © ZEKE