

Chelydra serpentina

Snapping Turtle

Chelydridae, the snapping turtle family



Diagnostic Characteristics

- Robust and large aquatic turtle
- Rear edge of shell is serrated
- Very long tail, usually as long or longer than shell; has a single row of scutes giving it a saw-like appearance
- Can weight up to 90 pounds and have a shell length of 19 inches

Background

- Native to Eastern U.S. and Southeastern Canada; introduced through the pet trade
- Highly adaptable
- Omnivore; feeds on vertebrates, invertebrates, and aquatic plants
- Will bite humans if threatened
- Top of food chain in its habitat

Photo Credit:

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