

Squirrels Scare Rattlesnakes With Their Tails!



Most humans don't want to come face to face with a rattlesnake. So imagine how a tiny squirrel must feel when it meets one! Rodents are a big part of a rattlesnake's 'dinner menu'! The poor squirrel must be terrified when it meets a rattlesnake!

Or maybe it isn't. You see, California ground squirrels have a secret weapon against rattlesnakes: their tails.

Scientists recently discovered something special about California ground squirrels. They gather heat in their tails to fend off rattlesnakes.

"One way squirrels control their body temperature is through their tails," biologist Aaron Rundus said. To cool down, the squirrels move their body heat into their tails.

Rattlesnakes have heat vision. At night they see heat - things that are hot glow.

If the squirrel meets a rattlesnake, it must act quickly. The squirrel makes its tail warmer and waves it in front of the rattlesnake. This makes a large glowing object in front of the rattlesnake. The snake thinks that the squirrel is much bigger than it actually is. So the snake slithers somewhere else to look for dinner.

Usually the rattlesnake terrifies everyone. Not this time! The cute, little, fuzzy, savvy squirrel scares the rattlesnake!

Can you touch a snak?