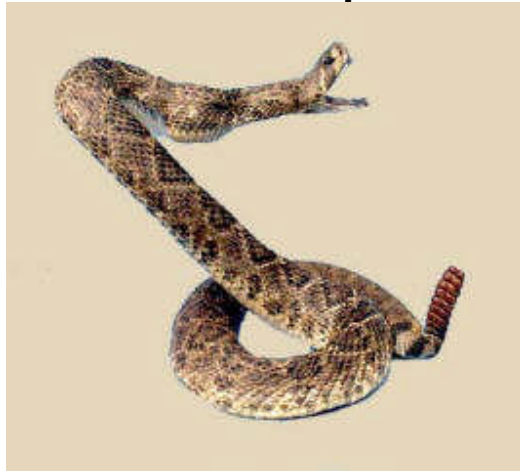


Rattlesnakes – Useful Tips to Remember



1. Always check your yard before letting children or pets outside in the summer.
2. Be aware of your surroundings at all times, especially when walking through woods, weeds, trails, or bushes.
3. Avoid specific snake habitats – ivy, brush piles, debris mounds, logjams, root systems, abandoned buildings, watery areas, and ground-cover in general.
4. Wear leather shoes or boots ankle high (or more) when walking in potential snake areas.
5. Never sit or climb (feet and hands), or step over obstacles without first looking carefully before making the move.
6. Observation is critical to avoidance. Check around with a sweeping glance for anything that seems out of place.
7. Near water of any kind, be aware that snakes may be near, though concealed from view while they are sleeping or hunting.
8. Do not stalk quietly in snake areas. Snakes have sensing devices to warn them of your presence. These warning signals help snakes avoid you before you are too close to trigger a dangerous confrontation. If you sneak up on a snake, and the snake senses that confrontation is necessary, then the snake will attack. Otherwise, the snake would rather avoid you.
9. Take a pet along on outings. Animals are more sensitive to snakes, and will help prevent an unanticipated confrontation (i.e., stepping on or too near a snake).
10. When a snake is spotted, leave it alone! Don't try to catch it or kill it. Just avoid it.
11. Control rodents. Rattlesnakes are attracted to food (which, for snakes, include rodents), water, and a safe place to live. Thus, rodents are not only destructive to your property; they are a primary source of food for rattlesnakes. Rodents should be eliminated from around the home.
12. Because snakes utilize the burrows of other animals, rodent holes and tunnels should be filled so that a snake does not take up residence. Tunnels should be filled or covered with quarter inch hardware cloth.
13. Wood piles or piles of junk are also very attractive to snakes. These should be cleaned up or moved away from the house. Care should be taken when rummaging through them in case you already have a resident!
14. Walls can be erected to discourage rattlesnakes from enclosed areas. A solid wall four feet high with a four inch lip at the top angling outward will discourage most snakes. The bottom of the wall should be sunk into the ground and have no tunnels under it.

Gates should fit snugly against the ground since a one inch opening is an open door to a snake. But remember, **there is NO SUCH THING AS A 100% SNAKE PROOF FENCE.** An athletic snake may climb virtually any wall, and a very tiny snake can move through the smallest of crevices.

15. Several products that claim to be snake repellents are on the market. Though well-marketed and high priced, there is currently NO SNAKE REPELLENT known to be effective. Be skeptical.

16. People without training should never handle a rattlesnake. No rattlesnake, not even a dead one, should be picked-up by hand. Reflex bites with envenomization can occur several hours after death. Call the Bureau of Sanitation for dead animal pick up at **(800) 773-2489.**

17. Leave them alone! More than half of all rattlesnake bites are provoked by the person being bitten.

18. Call Aniire Department if you need help determining if a snake is dangerous and should be removed.

Tips for Rattlesnake Bites

Do:

- Remain calm and reassure the victim.
- Remove all jewelry, watches, etc. from the affected area.
- Immobilize extremity and keep it at level below the heart.
- Decrease total body activity as is feasible.
- Move victim to medical facility without delay. Check with your local hospital for availability of antivenin.

Don't:

- Do not apply ice to the bite area.
- Do not make an incision of any kind.
- Do not use a constriction band or tourniquet.
- Do not administer alcohol or drugs.
- Do not use electric shock treatment.
- Pets are often bitten by rattlesnakes. Cats tend to hide out after an injury. Despite this, many survive. Although some large dogs do well with no veterinary care, it is recommended that any pet be taken to an emergency veterinary clinic if bitten.
- Finally, remember even rattlesnakes are important elements in our natural community. They kill rodents and participate in the natural chain. Of course, you do not want them in your back yards. So take precautions and remove anything that will attract snakes to your yard.