

SNAKES

Information Sheet

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Snakes are an important part of our environment and are often misunderstood. It is important to remember that, like all native animals, snakes are protected under State Legislation Nature Conservation Act 1992 and that harming a snake is an offence under this legislation. Also remember:

- Not all snakes are venomous
- Not every animal that looks like a snake is a snake. Burrowing skinks and legless lizards are often mistaken for a snake.
- When left alone, snakes present little or no danger to people. Most snake bites are received by people trying to capture or kill a snake.
- Most snakes, even the dangerous ones, will retreat when given the chance.

It is important to always assume an animal could be potentially harmful and leave it alone.

When

Snakes gain body warmth using external heat sources such as the sun or warmed rocks, and require this heat to perform everyday activities such as finding food. This means during cooler months snakes are relatively inactive, then as the weather becomes warmer there is an increase in snake activity and more sightings.

Where

Snakes can be found in a variety of bushland habitats, but are also commonly found in backyards, for example sheltering beneath rocks and log piles, underneath old sheets of tin/rubbish and amongst leaf litter.

What to do

- **If you encounter a snake.**
STAY CALM, and if possible walk away.
- **If you have a snake inside your house.**
 1. Firstly leave it alone.
 2. Close internal doors and open external doors.
 3. Keep everyone including pets away from snake. This gives the snake a chance to leave on its own. If this doesn't work, call Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service for contact details of local commercial snake catcher 1300 130 372 to relocate snake to a safe place.

It is important to remember snakes are an essential part of our environment and the relocated snake may be replaced by another living nearby.

Backyard Snake Safety

- Maintaining your lawn
- Locate gardens and sheds away from the house
- Ensure timber, building and rubbish piles are neatly stacked
- Place food scraps in closed compost bins to avoid attracting rodents to the yard
- Make your bird aviaries and chook sheds rodent and snake-proof.
- Store bird seed in rodent-proof containers.

Stay snake-safe this summer by:

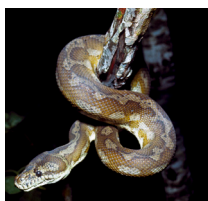
- Screen doors and windows and block potential entry points of your home
- When gardening wear gloves, long pants and covered shoes
- When bushwalking stay on formed paths or tracks so you can see and avoid snakes, and always wear protective clothing such as covered shoes and trousers

Snakebite Management

1. Follow DRABCD
2. Rest and reassure casualty
3. Apply a very firm pressure immobilisation bandage by applying a firm roller bandage starting just above the fingers or toes and moving upwards as far as can be reached up the limb. Apply tightly without stopping blood supply to the limb.
4. Immobilise the limb using a splint and secure with second bandage.
5. Ensure casualty does not move
6. Call 000 for an ambulance
7. Write down time of bite and when bandage was applied. Stay with casualty.

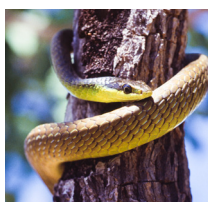
St John's Australian First Aid, 2008

South East Queensland region common species are:



Carpet Python Non-Venomous

It is often found in trees, sometimes living in another animals' burrow. These pythons are often encountered on the road on warm spring and summer nights in all habitat types within their range. They are mainly active at night.



Common tree snake Non-Venomous

Common tree snakes are found in a variety of habitat types, but are usually seen in eucalypt woodland or rainforest areas. They are active during the day in trees and on the ground.



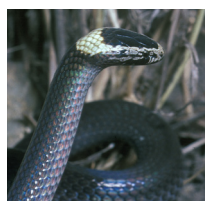
Keelback Non-Venomous

The keelback is found in and around creeks, rivers and marshlands. Active day or night.



Yellow-faced whip snake Venomous/Large Specimens Potentially Dangerous

They are active during the day, very agile and usually escape quickly when disturbed. Found throughout SEQ.



White-crowned snake Venomous/ Not dangerous to humans

It is considered to be one of the most common snakes in Brisbane, even occurring in the inner city. It inhabits compost heaps and damp areas of gardens.



Eastern small-eyed snake Venomous

This snake favours dark areas under sheets of tin, rocks and bark on fallen logs.



Eastern brown snake Highly Venomous

Occur in a variety of habitats ranging from grassland through to eucalypt forests. It is distributed throughout all but the western parts of Queensland. Active during the day. Will strike if provoked.



Red-bellied black snake Venomous

Variety of habitats near water but are more frequently encountered in wetter vegetation communities. Active during the day.