

APPENDIX 2

Rattlesnake Safety Sheets



SNAKE SAFETY SHEET

LEARN TO IDENTIFY ONTARIO SNAKES. Identify what a rattlesnake looks and sounds like.

1. **WEAR APPROPRIATE FOOTWEAR WHEN WALKING IN SNAKE COUNTRY.** This includes hiking boots and rubber boots.
2. **TRY TO KEEP PETS ON A LEASH.** Dogs are curious playful animals; rattlesnakes may feel threatened and bite in defense.
3. **NEVER PICK UP A RATTLESNAKE OR ANY WILD ANIMAL.** This is the most common cause of animal bites.
4. **ALWAYS WATCH WHERE YOU PLACE YOUR FEET AND HANDS.** Never reach into brush, under rocks, or into dark places where rattlesnakes may be hiding.
5. **IF YOU THINK YOU SEE OR HEAR A RATTLESNAKE, STOP WALKING.** Pinpoint the snake's exact location and move away slowly.
6. **NEVER TRY TO KILL A RATTLESNAKE.** This is unnecessary, dangerous, and against the law.

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SNAKEBITE INFORMATION

Snakebites in general are usually due to careless behaviour and handling. Also, a snake may bite if it feels threatened by a person or pet. Bites can be avoided if you follow the SNAKE SAFETY SHEET in this curriculum.

Snakebites are a medical emergency and should be taken seriously. Two fatalities have occurred in eastern Canada due to snakebites because the individuals did not receive hospital treatment.

If there are rattlesnakes in your area and you are concerned about the possibility of a bite, have an emergency plan in place. Include emergency medical, and neighbour phone numbers, OPP contacts, water taxi, designated boat access locations, etc.

IF A SNAKEBITE OCCURS:

1. DO NOT PANIC. Keep the person calm.
2. GO TO A HOSPITAL. Try to do this immediately.

IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO GET TO A HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY:

1. Remove any jewelry from the bitten limb.
2. Reduce activity and stay as still as possible. Splint the limb to reduce movement.
3. Clean the surface of the wound.
4. DO NOT apply a tourniquet.
5. DO NOT apply ice.
6. DO NOT cut or apply suction to the bite area.

NOTE: Many institutions, including the Toronto Zoo, provide rattlesnake workshops. For a list of workshops provided in your area or to find out when the next Toronto Zoo workshop is scheduled, contact:

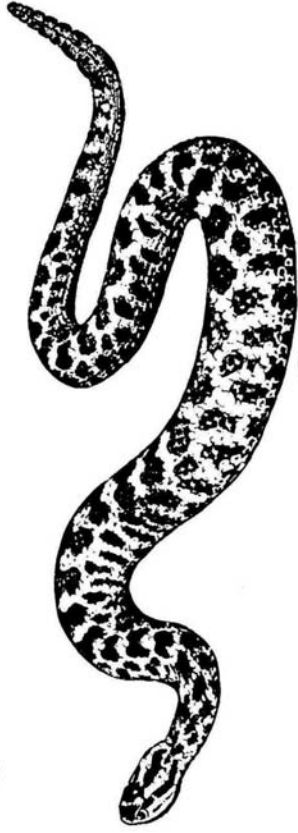
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Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Recovery Team Website: www.massasauga.ca



Toronto Zoo

Massasauga Rattlesnake Conservation Programme



Certificate

of Appreciation Awarded to:

_____ *for contributing to the conservation of the*
Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake

_____ *Amphibian & Reptile Unit*
Biology & Conservation

_____ *Date*