



SNAKE SAFETY

PROTECTING YOUR PETS FROM SNAKEBITES

**WE ARE
OPEN 24/7
FOR
EMERGENCIES!**

Living in Florida means outdoor fun, but also risks from venomous snakes like rattlesnakes, coral snakes, cottonmouths, and copperheads. Here's how to keep your pet safe and what to do if a snakebite occurs.

 (321) 725-5365

 animalspecialtyemergencycenter.com

SNAKE SAFETY: TIPS FOR PET PARENTS

VENEMOUS SNAKES IN FLORIDA



COPPERHEAD



COTTONMOUTH



DIAMONDBACK RATTLESNAKE



CORAL SNAKE

Pit Vipers (Rattlesnakes, Cottonmouths, Copperheads)

- Causes swelling, bleeding, and significant pain.
- We keep antivenom in stock and treat these bites on-site.
- Exact snake identification isn't necessary - the same antivenom works for all pit vipers.

Coral Snakes

- Rare but very dangerous - venom causes paralysis.
- Bites often don't swell and can be hard to spot.
- If your pet is near a coral snake or you suspect a bite, call us immediately.

SIGNS OF A BITE

- Sudden yelping or pain
- Swelling or bruising (common with pit vipers)
- Bleeding at bite site
- Weakness, collapse, or lethargy
- Vomiting or drooling
- Difficulty breathing or paralysis (possible with coral snakes)

TREATMENT

Pit Viper Bites:

- Antivenom
- Pain relief
- IV fluids & close monitoring

Coral Snake Bites:

- Stabilization
- Referral to the University of Florida for antivenom if needed

WHAT TO DO

- Stay calm and keep your pet quiet and still
- Remove collars, harnesses, or anything constricting near swelling
- If safe, take a photo of the snake - do **NOT** try to catch or bring it
- Call us immediately and head to our hospital

Do NOT:

- Apply ice or a tourniquet
- Attempt to suck out venom
- Give any medications at home, as they can be harmful

QUICK ACTION SAVES LIVES!

If your pet is bitten or acting strangely after outdoor play, contact us at **(321) 725-5365**.

PREVENTING BITES

- **Supervise** your pets outdoors, especially in tall grass or wooded areas.
- **Avoid areas where snakes hide:** brush piles, wood stacks, rocks.
- **Keep your yard clear** by mowing and removing debris.
- **Train your dog** to obey commands like "leave it."