

SNAKE SAFETY FOR PETS

Southwest Florida's lush environment is home to a wide variety of wildlife, including several species of snakes. While many of these snakes are harmless, the region is also home to many venomous species. For pet owners, especially those with curious dogs or outdoor cats, it's important to understand how to minimize the risk of snake encounters and know what to do if your pet is bitten.



Common Venomous Snakes in Southwest Florida

Southwest Florida is home to venomous snakes that can pose serious danger to pets, including:



Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake



Coral Snake



Cottonmouth (Water Moccasin)

Snake Safety Tips for Pet Owners



Stay on Trails

- Walk dogs on leashes
- Avoid tall grass, brush, and woodpiles



Leash & Control

- Keep pets close and under control, especially in snake-prone areas



Yard Maintenance

- Mow grass regularly
- Clear debris, wood, and dense shrubs
- Seal gaps under sheds, decks, and fences



Be Snake-Aware!

- Snakes are most active in warm months, mornings, and evenings
- Be extra cautious during these times.

What To Do If Your Pet Is Bitten



Stay Calm

- Minimize your pet's movement
- Carry them to reduce venom spread



Seek Immediate Care

- Go to the nearest emergency vet
- Call ahead if possible

DO NOT DO THIS!

- Apply ice or a tourniquet
- Try to suck out venom
- Attempt to capture or kill the snake. Take a photo from a safe distance if you can, but treatment is typically based on symptoms, not species identification.

Signs of Snakebites in Pets

- Sudden yelp or signs of pain
- Swelling, especially around the bite area
- Puncture wounds
- Weakness, collapse, or difficulty breathing
- Vomiting or drooling
- Seizures (in severe cases)

Protect Your Pet. Know the Risks. Act Fast.

Remember - We are here to help 24/7!

Prevention is always the best defense when it comes to protecting your pet from snake bites in Southwest Florida. By staying vigilant, keeping your outdoor areas tidy, and knowing what to do in an emergency, you can significantly reduce the risk and ensure the best possible outcome for your furry friend.

If you live in an area with high snake activity, speak with your veterinarian about local risks and whether the rattlesnake vaccine (available for dogs) might be appropriate.

