

The Rural City of Murray Bridge encourages people to acquaint themselves with the local wildlife. Council believes that an understanding of wildlife behavior is the key to living harmoniously with native animals. These animals are part of our environment and we must all take responsibility for them.

Different species of snakes like different habitats. In South Australia we are most likely to come in contact with brown snakes and tiger snakes which are often found near water. Mid to late spring and summer are times when snakes are more active.

Encountering a Snake:

- Remain calm and motionless in the first instance;
- Leave the snake alone and give it the opportunity to escape; and
- Move slowly to a safe distance observing the position of the snake at all times.

If you see a snake on a public reserve, don't panic. Most snakes are not aggressive. Keep your distance and get specific details of the location and contact Council.

If you see a snake in or near your home or business, don't panic. Call in an expert rather than trying to deal with them yourself. Keep children and pets away and call a snake catcher. You can find them under 'S' in the Yellow Pages. Snake catchers charge a fee for this service. If the snake catcher attends the call out and is unable to locate and remove the snake, a fee may still be payable.

Preventative Strategies

- Ensure long grass is cut back;
- Remove snake's access to water within the site where possible;
- Remove snake habitats e.g. piles of timber and sheets of galvanised iron; and
- Maintain clean yards and surroundings to reduce the mice population.

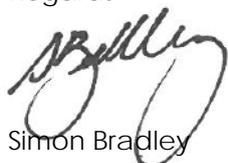
Snakes tend to be inconspicuous. They will try and avoid confrontation with a human by either moving away and hiding, or lying still until the person has moved away. However, like most wild animals, snakes will defend themselves if they are startled, feel threatened or are cornered. Most snake bites happen when people were trying to catch or kill a snake.

Treating snake bite:

- Assess the Danger, check for Response from the casualty, check Airway, Breathing, and Circulation (DRABC response);
- Do not wash the bite. Apply a firm broad bandage over the bite site which compresses tissue but maintains blood flow. Then continue the bandage up the limb;
- Immobilise the limb or body part; e.g. use a splint (i.e. stick) or tie legs together; and
- Keep the victim at rest. Bring transport to the victim.

Please contact Council's Environment Officer, Mr Glenn Dean at g.dean@murraybridge.sa.gov.au or on 8539 1167 alternatively further information is available from: http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/Plants_Animals/Living_with_wildlife/Snakes

Regards



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