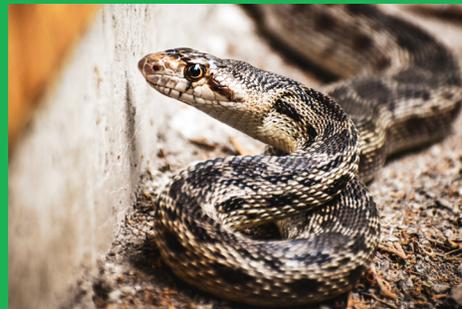


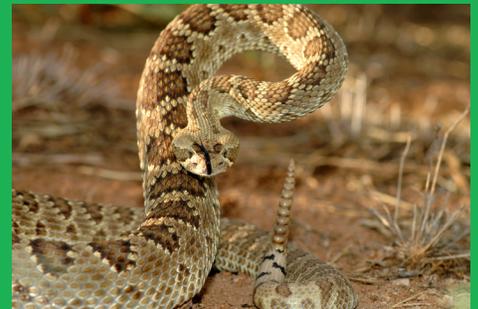
Rattlesnakes



Rattlesnake displaying rattle on tail



Gopher snake has narrow head and rounded eyes



Rattlesnakes have triangular-shaped heads

Prevention and Safety

Rattlesnakes are California's only native venomous snake, and is distinguished by its triangular-shaped head, elliptical eyes, and blunt rattle on the tail. They are an important part of the ecosystem, feeding on birds, rodents, and other small animals. They are a brownish to dark green and pale to deep yellow in color, and can be 6 inches to 4.5 feet long. Gopher snakes are often mistaken for rattlesnakes. However, gopher snakes are non-venomous, have rounded eyes, and lack a rattle.

Hiding spots for snakes

Snakes tend to hide in rodent burrows, under rocks or logs, in tall grasses, and under house foundations. If you spot a snake, keep clear of it.

Prevention

To prevent snake bites during outdoor activities, don't hike with open-toed shoes, avoid tall grass, and look for snakes in crevices before walking or sitting. At home, clear your yard of dense vegetation or piles of rocks/logs, put up snake-proof fences, seal gaps under doors and crawlspaces, keep rodent populations low, and fill in holes around the yard.

Snake bites

In the case of a snake bite, DO NOT apply a tourniquet, DO NOT pack the bite area with ice, DO NOT apply a cold compress, DO NOT cut the bite site, DO NOT suck the venom out with mouth, and DO NOT let the victim drink alcohol, eat food, or take drugs. Instead, calm the victim, keep the bitten body part still and below heart level. Remove any rings and other constricting items. Clean the wound and apply a clean/dry bandage, and get the victim to the nearest emergency facility for treatment.



Vector Control District County of Santa Clara

1580 Berger Drive, San Jose, CA 95112
Monday – Friday, 8:45 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.
(408) 918.4700 | www.sccvector.org

Please be advised

Do not tease or handle a snake. If a snake needs to be removed from your property, call us or a professional pest/wildlife control who specializes in snakes.