

Our Venomous Neighbors

From Erick Briggs - Natural Solutions - 760.464.6792

As more and more humans and their pets move into the areas of the Southern California, they come into contact with the "locals". These locals: scorpions, spiders, bees, wasps, centipedes, toads, and rattlesnakes, often carry lethal poison or venom. We offer effective training that teaches dogs to stay from the most dangerous of the locals -- rattlesnakes!

The form of training we offer is often referred to as "snake aversion," or "snake breaking." More accurately it should be called Canine Rattlesnake Avoidance Training. The idea behind this method is to get the dog associate the smells, sound, and postures of live rattlesnakes with a well timed negative stimulus; a shock from a remote correction collar. The dog isn't harmed and quickly learns to identify and stay away from live rattlesnakes.

In the U.S., approximately 15,000 dogs are bitten (in some cases the same dog will be bitten on more than one separate occurrence) by venomous snakes every year. In dogs, over 70% of bites occur on the muzzle of face, with the other 30% on the feet or legs and occasionally on the body. Of the venomous U.S. snake bites on dogs, about 80% are from rattlesnakes.

Puppies can be trained as early as 4 months of age (this depends on the mental development of the puppy; however, it could be earlier or later in development). An immature puppy would benefit better from waiting another month or so. Where as an alert advanced puppy may be ready at an earlier age. This is often relative to the dog size and breed history. If it can walk on a leash and focus for more than 30 seconds than it should do fine. In most cases even older dogs will benefit greatly from this training. If your dog is likely to come into contact with a rattlesnake, they should be trained. Older dogs are particularly susceptible to the effects of a snake bite.

In the regions of Southern California, there is no true hibernation season for rattlesnakes. They can be active anytime of the year. Veterinarians commonly treat dogs for snake bites in January and February. If you live in an area where there are rattlesnakes, the best time to train your dog is now!

We offer flexible, individual training appointments that can accommodate most schedules. Training is only needed once a year and can take as long as 15 minutes per dog. Training can be scheduled most days of the week and at most times of the day. The cost is \$75.00 per dog successfully trained plus an additional house call/travel fee dependant on distance and location. Call 760-464-6792 today to enroll your dog for this life saving training.