

Snakes make good neighbors

They're more helpful than
harmful

More snakes = less disease! Snakes eat
vectors and carriers of many diseases,
including The Plague and Lyme disease.

**Snakes are effective, all-natural pest
control.** Snakes won't raid your garden
or chew up your wires, but they will eat
the critters that do. And due to their
non-competitive nature and ability to
fast for long periods, vipers (rattlesnakes,
copperheads, cottonmouths) are more
effective at controlling prey populations
than bird or mammal predators.



A patch-nosed snake eats a rodent in a garden

Still don't want vipers for neighbors?

Make friends with other snakes!
Kingsnakes, racers, and other non-
venomous snakes eat venomous snakes.
Others, like gophersnakes and bullsnakes,
compete with venomous snakes for food.



Sonoran whipsnake

Snakes have an undeserved reputation as
evil, cold-blooded creatures.

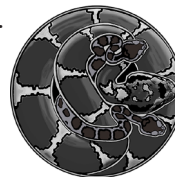
Fear and misunderstanding result in
merciless persecution and impede snake
conservation efforts.

*We envision a world where
snakes are respected & appreciated
instead of feared and hated.*

Advocates for Snake Preservation *changes how people view & treat snakes*

We study snake behavior and natural
history, following the principles of
Compassionate Conservation.

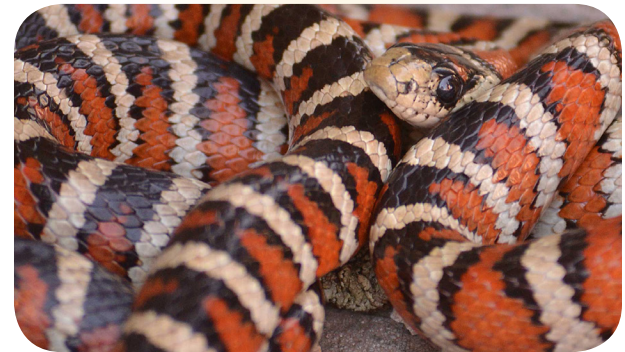
We dispel myths and
misinformation about snakes
through free presentations,
online outreach, and publications.



We provide resources on how we
can peacefully coexist with our snake
neighbors. **Find out more at:**

LivingWithSnakes.org

SNAKE COUNTRY *Survival Guide*



Mountain kingsnake

Worried about snakes?

**Killing or moving snakes is a quick fix, not
a solution.** Moving a snake far from her
home may be a death sentence for her
and is a temporary fix for you — where
there's one, there's likely to be more.

**Learn to live safely with snakes
and appreciate your encounters.**

Advocates for Snake Preservation

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Killing or handling snakes is a good way to get bit

Most bites happen to people who try to handle or kill snakes; the rest are due to people not watching where they put their hands or feet.

Once you spot a snake, the risk of a bite is virtually zero since you can keep a safe distance.

Snakes presumed dead can and do bite.



A basking black-necked gartersnake

Shooting snakes can result in people getting shot because their size and shape make them easy to miss.

Make your yard less attractive to snakes

Don't feed or water pets or wildlife on the ground.



A curious striped whipsnake

Eliminate debris piles and other shelters for snakes or their prey.

Reduce water and lush or overgrown vegetation that attract snakes and their prey.

Horse hair ropes, mothballs, and other commercial repellants don't work.

Create a safe, wildlife-friendly yard

Use lights when walking at night.

Create clear, wide paths for safe walking.

Look before placing your hands and feet.

If you can't see, use a long stick to disturb vegetation and hidden animals.

Don't use bird netting or glue traps (*it is difficult to safely extract trapped animals*).

Keep pets indoors or under control.



A rock rattlesnake resting in a yard

Snakes are important predators and prey. Their presence indicates a healthy and productive ecosystem.

Fence snakes out

The most effective fences to keep snakes out should:

- Be 4' high with solid, buried footing.
- Be made of smooth, solid material or ¼" or finer hardware cloth or wire mesh.
- Have their drainage areas covered with ¼" or finer hardware cloth or wire mesh.

Trim trees and shrubs that give climbers a way in (*all snakes can climb*).

Learn your wild neighbors' habits and avoid their areas or observe from a safe distance.

You could see snakes taking care of their kids, hunting, or babysitting their neighbors' kids.



A gophersnake (bullsnake) hunting around a house

If you find a venomous snake in a high-traffic area (in your house, on the patio):

- Wait for him to move,
- Use a long-handled broom to gently encourage him to move, or
- Call a wildlife professional. Let them know you don't want him moved far because **this is his home too.**

If someone is bitten by a venomous snake seek medical attention immediately. The only effective treatment for snakebite is antivenom, so don't waste your time with snakebite kits or other home remedies.