Central Texas Veterinary
SPECIALTY & EMERGENCY
HOSPITAL

What to do in an Emergency:
Snake Bite

Signs and Symptoms

- Localized Swelling
- Bleeding /bruising
- Lethargy
- Panting, excessive drooling, vomiting
- Lameness
- Sudden pain/crying
- Trembling/shaking
- Collapse
- Sudden weakness or paralysis (specific to coral snakes)

Take Action Immediately

- **Get to an Emergency Veterinary Hospital** - If you know or are suspicious that your pet was bitten by a venomous snake, go to the nearest emergency vet immediately. Call ahead to let them know you are on your way and confirm they have antivenom.
- **Keep your pet calm and still** - If you know where the bite is, keep that part of the body as still as possible so the venom does not spread as quickly. Remove your dog's collar if they are wearing it.
- **Identify type of snake if possible** - If you see the snake, take a photo for identification purposes. Do not attempt to kill or capture the snake. If you cannot see the snake, skip this step and go to the emergency veterinarian.

Contact Us 512-892-9038 www.ctvseh.com

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Snake Bite FAQs

- **I'm not sure my pet was bitten. Should I wait until symptoms arise?**
  - A: No. Time is of the essence when treating venomous snake bites. Immediate medical attention is necessary even with no symptoms.
- **What if my dog has the rattlesnake vaccine?**
  - A: The rattlesnake vaccine does not stop envenomation, so emergency veterinary care is still crucial.
- **What can I expect of snake bite treatment?**
  - A: Most pets who have been bit by a venomous snake will need hospitalization for monitoring, antivenom administration, and other supportive medications and fluids. Some pets will need more than one vial of antivenom. Hospitalization time varies based on the severity of the symptoms and how each pet responds to treatment.
- **Are all snake bites the same?**
  - A: No. Coral Snake venom works very differently from that of the pit vipers. The bite does not cause local tissue damage or swelling but works as a neurotoxin, potentially causing weakness or paralysis. Sometimes, symptoms do not start until several hours after the bite. Seek immediate vet care if you suspect a coral snake bit your pet.

Contact Us for 24/7 Emergency Care!

ROUND ROCK

301 Chisholm Trail
Round Rock, TX 78681

Scan for directions
to the nearest
CTVSEH Emergency Hospital

SOUTH AUSTIN

4434 Frontier Trail
Austin, TX 77045

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