



# Snakes

Eight species of snakes live in the wild in parkland and on farms around the ACT. However, whilst all snakes in the ACT (except the blind snake) are venomous, they are shy creatures that will quickly retreat if not provoked. You are more likely to see a snake warming itself on a path or rock in the sun between the months of October and April. The more common snakes seen in the ACT gardens are the Eastern Brown Snake and the Red-Bellied Black Snake. The Tiger Snake and the Black-headed Snake are only seen occasionally.

## What to do:

- If you see a snake, observe from a distance, stay calm, and walk away. Snakes might turn and hiss, to 'act tough' only if they are scared. Do not attempt to catch.
- If a snake is passing through your yard, keep children and pets indoors, away from the snake until it moves on. If it has decided to stay and pose a threat to life you can call Canberra Connect on 13 22 81 so a ranger can attend.
- Reduce the chance of a snake visiting your yard by removing sources of food and water. Snakes will pass through regardless. Put water at the back of your yard to reduce the possibility that the snake will come closer to people.
- Snakes are more likely to visit if you live near a reserve as they travel around looking for food. You can reduce the risk of a fright by keeping your garden paths clear or mowed, so that you can easily see any snake and avoid them.
- Take care when moving logs, bush rock or other items that sit around out in your yard.
- Never try to handle or harm a snake as all ACT snakes are venomous and can kill.
- Wear long pants and closed shoes when walking in bushland.

## Do not:

- Collect snakes. It is illegal. They are a protected species and should be left alone.
- Handle or approach a snake as the bite from all ACT snake species can kill. You are more likely to be bitten if you try to handle or kill a snake

## Did you know?

- ACT snakes are called elapid snakes. There are no pythons native to the ACT.
- There are some ACT snakes that give birth to live babies.
- Young brown snakes often have thin black stripes and/or black heads that fade as they mature. Brown snakes vary in colour from pale grey to dark brown.
- Snakes play an important role in the Australian environment and food chain, consuming smaller animals such as mice. Snakes in turn provide food for other animals like birds and reptiles.

For more information or advice contact ACT Wildlife on 0432 300 033 or call Canberra Connect on 13 22 81 or visit our website [www.actwildlife.net](http://www.actwildlife.net)

For more information on snakes and reptiles go to [www.actha.org.au](http://www.actha.org.au)

This fact sheet is sponsored by ACT Herpetological Association

