

SNAKES AND SAFETY

IN ATYRAU AND MANGISTAU REGIONS



Gloydius halys caraganus
Cape Karagan Pirviper
Maximum length about 70 cm. Pupil vertically elliptic.
Bite causing strong pain; potentially deadly.



Psammophis lineolatus
Steppe Ribbon Racer
Maximum length about 100 cm. Round pupil.
Bite causing usually only a small swelling.



Vipera ursinii renardi
Steppe Viper
Max. length about 60 cm. Pupil vertically elliptic.
Rarely severe effects, but potentially deadly.



Elaphe dione
Steppe Rat Snake
Maximal length about 120 cm. Round pupil.

Prevention of snake bite:

- DO NOT APPROACH SNAKES, even if they seem dead.
- If you see a snake, leave it alone, do not try to harm it.
- Avoid walking in grassy areas or at night without closed shoes or boots.
- Look carefully before picking up dead branches from the ground; avoid lifting rocks in nature; do not put hands in ground or tree holes.
- Keep emergency medical numbers and a fully-charged phone when in the field.

To do if someone is bitten by a snake:

- REMAIN CALM. Ask the bitten person to stay still; reassure her/him: many bites, including by venomous snakes, do not result in envenoming; severe envenoming is rare; progression to severe envenoming takes several hours; modern medical treatment is very efficient.
- Photograph / observe the snake only if it does not generate additional bite risk; description of the snake (color, size) can help medical decision.
- Remove rings, watches and bracelets from the bitten hand.
- Immobilize the bitten limb, if possible with a splint and a sling, and place it below the level of the heart.
- Transport the bitten person as passively and quickly as possible to the nearest medical center; keep in contact with the rescue team to indicate your position.

Not to do if someone is bitten by a snake:

- DO NOT cauterize, incise, excise, massage nor suck the wound.
- DO NOT apply tourniquet nor constriction bands.
- DO NOT offer alcohol, coffee nor aspirin to the bitten person.



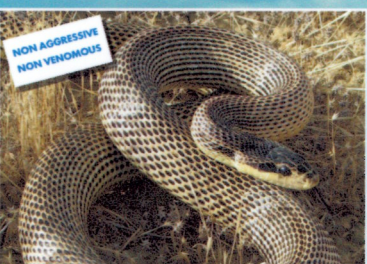
Dolichophis caspius
Caspian Whip Snake
Maximal length exceeding 200 cm. Round pupil.



Natrix tessellata
Dice Snake
Maximal length about 140 cm. Round pupil.



Natrix natrix
Grass Snake
Maximal length about 130 cm. Round pupil.



Elaphe sauromates
Eastern Four-lined Rat Snake
Maximal length exceeding 200 cm. Round pupil.



Eryx miliaris
Dwarf Sand Boa (Black phase)
Maximal length about 70 cm. Pupil vertically elliptic.



Eryx miliaris
Dwarf Sand Boa (Brown phase)
Maximal length about 70 cm. Pupil vertically elliptic.