



## Snake Awareness Perth and Western Australia

### Venomous snakes

Almost anywhere in and round the city of Perth, and across the whole state, you may come across a snake.

In older built up suburbs with no large areas of undisturbed bushland, most species are locally extinct. However, they may be found in any long protected parks, beaches, sand dunes or on golf courses and farm land.

They are most often encountered in those areas where recent developments have taken place. As bushland is cleared snakes have little habitat left and are more likely to enter parks and gardens in search of prey, mates, suitable egg laying sites or new territory.

Snakes in Australia only bite when threatened or trodden on. Most feel the vibrations of your footsteps and move away before you even get close. Sluggish snakes and the slower Death Adders on colder days may be reluctant to move at all and should simply be walked around.

DON'T PANIC. Just "say G'day and walk away".

Why not join us on a venomous snake course - overcome a few fears by learning more about these amazing creatures and also find out how to catch and remove them safely with the help of our expert instructors.



DUGITE

The two most common venomous snakes of the Perth area are:

### Western Tiger Snake *Notechis scutatus*

Solid looking reptile with a large chunky head. Can reach 120cm in length.

Usually a dark brown or black coloured snake with some yellow or orange banding.

This snake is associated with fresh water and can be found among paperbark trees alongside creeks, lakes and swamps.

A **dangerous venomous snake** but not noted for aggressive behaviour.



TIGER SNAKE

### Dugite or Spotted brown snake.

#### *Pseudonaja affinis*

In colouration this is a highly variable snake, dark or light grey to brown, yellow, green and even black. Head often lighter or darker than body; may be spotted or flecked along length of body. An active, agile and alert snake, mainly diurnal but can also be seen at night hunting. Can grow to over 2 metres.

Most venomous snakes encountered in Perth are Dugites. Young Dugites having recently hatched are on the move from early February through to May looking for suitable habitats many end up as unwelcome visitors in suburban parks and gardens.

A **dangerous venomous snake** but not noted for aggressive behaviour. Will however bite rapidly and repeatedly when injured or threatened.