

HUME CITY COUNCIL

Living with Wildlife: Snakes

Snake safety in Hume City

Learn how to live safely with snakes in your community.

Hume City is home to several native snake species, including the Eastern Brown, Eastern Tiger, Lowland Copperhead, and Red-bellied Black snakes. These snakes are most active during spring and summer when they seek warm places to sunbathe.

Wild snakes also brumate (become sluggish or inactive) over the winter months in southern Australia, but they often emerge on sunny days, meaning they can be encountered even in winter.

While they commonly reside in parks, reserves, and near creeks or wetlands, snakes may occasionally move through gardens in search of food such as small mammals, birds, frogs, and lizards.

Why Snakes Matter

Snakes play a vital role in our ecosystem by controlling pests like rats and mice. They are also a food source for birds of prey and kookaburras. Protected under Victoria's Wildlife Act, it is illegal to interfere with, harm, or kill snakes. Sharing our environment with snakes is essential to maintaining a healthy balance in nature.

Snake Safety Tips

- **Stay Alert:** Snakes fear humans and will only defend themselves if threatened. Always be cautious in areas where snakes are known to live and watch where you step. Most snake bites occur when people try to catch or kill a snake.
- **Keep Pets Safe:** Pets may provoke snakes, leading to bites. If your pet is bitten, take them to a vet immediately for anti-venom treatment.
- **Emergency Protocols:** In the rare event of a snake bite:
 - Call 000 for emergency assistance.
 - Keep the person calm and still until help arrives.



Reporting Snake Sightings

Report snake sightings in parks, reserves, or Council-managed areas by calling 9205 2200.

For more information visit
www.hume.vic.gov.au/snakesafety

Council's Advice

Staying safe outdoors

Stick to designated paths and keep pets on a leash.

- Avoid walking in long grass or areas where snakes have been sighted, and walk calmly in a different direction. Give the snake space and a chance to escape.

Staying safe at home

Make your garden less appealing to snakes by:

- Removing potential food sources like rodents.
- Eliminating shelters such as dense vegetation or debris piles.
- Position ponds with frogs away from your house because they are a good source of water.
- Secure chicken pens and bird aviaries to prevent rodent infestations.
- If a snake is found inside the house, close internal doors and block any gaps under them. If possible, open external doors to give the snake a chance to leave.
- If you think you have a snake in the yard, keep pets and children indoors.

What to do if you see a snake

Staying safe if you encounter a snake.

- **Keep Your Distance:** Never approach a snake. The safest action is to leave it alone and avoid the area.
- **Be Patient:** Most snakes will move on if left undisturbed.



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- Council may arrange for a professional snake handler to relocate snakes from public spaces.

Please note:

- Response times may vary, and snakes might not always be located.
- Even after removal, other snakes may remain in the vicinity.

To have a snake removed from private property at your own expense, contact local animal control services or search online business directories.

For more information about living with wildlife, contact Hume City Council at 9205 2200 or visit www.hume.vic.gov.au/snakesafety.