



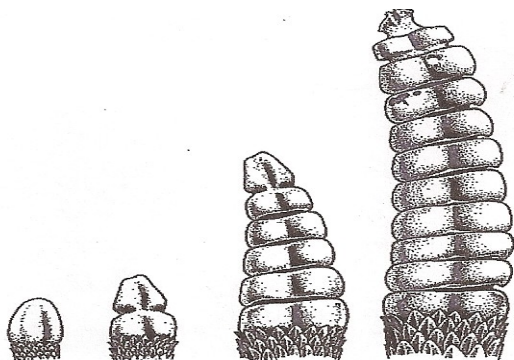


Rattlesnakes can unhinge their jaws, allowing them to swallow large rodents whole. When closing their mouths, the fangs tuck backwards against the roof of the mouth



Rattlesnakes have a triangular shaped head as demonstrated by this red diamond .

Each time they shed, a new segment is added to their rattle. This can happen 2-3 times per year.



## IF BITTEN BY A RATTLESNAKE

- Keep the bite area still. Try using a splint to immobilize the bite
- Remove anything that could cause constriction if there is swelling
- Keep the area of the bite lower than the heart. Remain calm.
- Seek immediate medical help

### IF YOUR HORSE IS BITTEN

Most bites in horses happen in the face. This is due to the horse's natural curiosity when encountering a snake. Swelling of the nose probably will happen and because a horse can only breathe through the nose, suffocation could occur. Take two 5-6" sections of garden hose and insert carefully into each nostril. Using Vaseline or spittle on the end of the hose will help it to glide in smoothly. Do not cut or apply ice to the bite area. Contact a vet immediately. If out on the trail walk your horse slowly to the trailer. Try to keep the horse calm. Remove any tack that might be constrictive during swelling.

If the bite happens in the leg, it might not swell as much. This does not mean that it isn't as serious. Immediately contact your vet and keep your horse calm.

Approved for distribution by  
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# Living With Rattlesnakes

*AVOID THE BITE!*



**BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA**



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 California Trails & Backcountry*

*A Pocket Guide for  
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