

An Advisory On Snakes

Living in Harmony with
Our Wild Neighbours



Snakes in Singapore

There are **67 species** of snakes that can be found in Singapore. Snakes in Singapore are active throughout the year due to our tropical climate. They are generally shy and will avoid humans unless threatened.

They come in many sizes, from the Brahminy Blind Snake (right) that grows **no longer than 20 cm**, to the Reticulated Python (on cover) that can grow up to over **9 m in length**.



Brahminy Blind Snake (*Indotyphlops braminus*)

How to Interact Responsibly with Wildlife (including snakes!)

- Observe them from a safe distance.
- Do not feed them. There is sufficient food in the natural environment.
- Do not release any animals (including pets) into the wild. This will impact the natural ecosystems negatively.

Important Ecological Roles

Pest control – Snakes such as pythons act as a vital biological control for local rodent populations.

Balanced ecosystem – Snakes are vital components of the food web as predators of small animals and prey to larger mammals and birds.

Why are snakes found in urban areas?



A Reticulated Python feeding on a bird in an urban area

Snakes are found in urban areas due to the **availability of food** such as rodents, as well as small birds, reptiles and amphibians.



A Reticulated Python resting in a drain

Some snakes, such as the Reticulated Python, have adapted to living in urban environments. They access areas with high prey population by travelling through **drains and canals**.

Snakes are sometimes found **basking** on pavements and roads. They are **ectothermic** (also known as “cold-blooded”) animals that use heat radiating off the pavements to regulate their temperature, known as **thermoregulation**.

What should I do when I encounter a snake in a public area?



1. **Stay calm and back away slowly.** Snakes are generally shy and will retreat if they come in contact with humans. Give them the space to do so.



2. **Do not approach or attempt to handle the snake.** Leave it as it is, especially if you encounter it in its natural habitat. **Call NParks at 1800-476-1600** if you need assistance.



3. **Keep your pets on a tight leash** as they might chase the snake and frighten it.

In the event of a snake bite, **seek medical assistance immediately.**

What should I do when I encounter a snake in my home?

1. **Keep your distance away from the snake and call for professional help.** The snake may try to look for a dark and secure area to hide. Observe the snake from a safe distance and let animal management specialists know where the snake is so that they can locate it quickly upon arrival.



2. **Make sure that all family members including young children and pets like dogs or cats are kept away from the area where the snake is,** as they may be curious and try to approach the snake.

3. **If the snake is found in a room, keep all doors and windows that lead to the outside of the home open for the snake to exit.** Sometimes the snake will look for an escape route and will use these openings.

4. **Find out why the snake came to your area.** Improper waste disposal can attract pests and cause rodent infestation which attract predators such as snakes.

Tips on preventing snakes from entering your home

- Dispose of your food waste properly. Food scraps can potentially attract rodents, which may in turn, attract snakes.
- Remove hiding places that snakes may rest in. Remove any unused pots or containers and seal off any holes or gaps in your property.
- Install wire mesh or acrylic panes that are up to 1 m in height and dug into the ground around your property to prevent ground-dwelling snakes from entering.
- If you have a garden, keep your grass short and fill up any holes or burrows.
- If you have a pet at home, ensure that its cage is snake-proof or keep your pet indoors.



Install wire mesh to deter ground-dwelling snakes from entering.



Keep the grass short and fill up any holes or burrows to make the area less favourable to snakes.

Common Snakes In Singapore



Common Wolf Snake

Lycodon capucinus

- Non-venomous
- Mostly ground-dwelling
- Feeds on geckoes and skinks



Striped Kukri Snake

Oligodon octolineatus

- Non-venomous
- Ground-dwelling
- Feeds on lizards and frogs



Striped Bronzeback

Dendrelaphis caudolineatus

- Non-venomous
- Tree-dwelling
- Feeds on lizards, frogs and young birds



Painted Bronzeback

Dendrelaphis pictus

- Non-venomous
- Tree-dwelling
- Feeds on lizards and frogs



Reticulated Python

Malayopython reticulatus

- Non-venomous
- Mostly ground-dwelling
- Feeds on rodents

Common Snakes In Singapore

Oriental Whip Snake

Ahaetulla prasina

- Mildly venomous
- Venom targeted at prey
- Tree-dwelling
- Feeds on lizards, frogs and small birds



Paradise Tree Snake

Chrysopelea paradisi

- Mildly venomous
- Venom targeted at prey
- Generally harmless to humans
- Tree-dwelling
- Feeds on lizards and small birds



Black Spitting Cobra

Naja sumatrana

- **Highly venomous**
- Ground-dwelling
- Feeds on rodents and amphibians



Wagler's Pit Viper

Tropidolaemus wagleri

- **Highly venomous**
- Tree-dwelling
- Feeds on birds and rodents
- Male and female of this species look distinctly different



Male



Female

For more queries regarding snakes, contact NParks at **1800-476-1600**, or through our online feedback form at www.avs.gov.sg/feedback