

Prairie Rattlesnake Safety and Identification



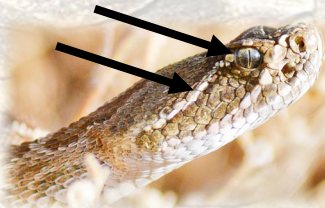
Prairie Rattlesnake, *Crotalus viridis*, is the only **dangerously venomous** snake to occur on the Colorado Front Range. They are most active during April-October, but can also be seen basking on warm winter days.

Prairie Rattlesnake/ **dangerous** snake

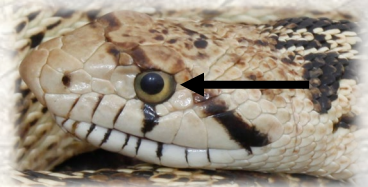
- Presence of a rattle
- Blunt tail with a black band at base of rattle
- Base of head wider than neck
- White facial stripes
- Vertical pupils

Harmless snakes

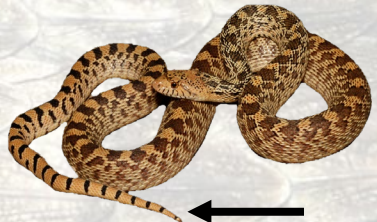
- No rattle present
- Tapered tail
- Head usually same width as neck
- Lack of facial stripes
- Rounded pupils



Prairie Rattlesnake



Bullsnake



Rattlesnake Bite First AID

- **CALL 911**
- Remain calm
- At a safe place, sit down and keep the bitten area at or below heart level
- Remove any rings, bracelets or other items that could restrict blood flow with severe swelling
- Circle the bite and record the time the bite occurred. Monitor for severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing.
- **DO NOT:** cut skin, suck puncture wounds, apply a tourniquet, apply ice or water, use a venom extractor, consume food or fluids, attempt to drive yourself to a medical facility

IF YOUR PET IS BITTEN BY A PRAIRIE RATTLESNAKE

- Immediately transport to a veterinary medical facility
- If possible, carry your pet to reduce activity and the overall effect of venom
- Call ahead and ensure the veterinarian is prepared for a snakebite emergency

REDUCE YOUR RISK OF SNAKE/HUMAN CONFLICT

- Keep your dog leashed
- Wear closed-toe shoes
- Stay on designated trails
- Be aware of your surroundings and keep one earbud out
- Look closely before you sit, step or grab
- **NEVER** attempt to move or harm a rattlesnake
- **If you encounter a Prairie Rattlesnake:** Give the snake space and time to move away from you

