SNAKES:. Australia has over 170 snake species, including many of the world's most venomous, found in diverse habitats.

GOANNAS: Goannas are distributed throughout most regions of Australia, with the exception of Tasmania, and inhabit a range of environments. Many species can climb trees or rocky outcrops; the lace monitor is the second-largest goanna.

Note: With a licence some species of snakes and goannas can be kept as pets and do often escape.

Lace Monitor

QUESTIONS TO ASK A CALLER:

Is the snake/goanna injured or not moving?

Where is the snake/goanna?

Diamond python

SNAKE OR GOANNA (UNINJURED)

If you see a snake/goanna and it is **NOT** injured, please leave it alone.

Are you able to lock up your pets if any, until the snake/goanna moves away?

Best Advice

1. Reptiles are more active in the warmer months and often wander through backyards in search of food, water and basking in the sun.
2. Snakes generally avoid people. Remind callers that harming protected wildlife is illegal and carries penalties.
3. If there is a snake in a place of home or place of business, you can try to locate rescuers, or advise the caller to **contact a professional snake catcher at their expense.**

Eastern brown snake

SNAKE/GOANNA (INJURED):

Any types of bites can cause crush injuries and infections in reptiles.
Reptiles often bask on the warm road and get hit by cars.
Animals caught in fencing will also require assessment.

Can you monitor the animal until a rescuer can be arranged?

Best Advice

1. Do not identify a snake over the phone
2. ALL snakes/monitors should be left alone and treated with caution
3. The caller is expected to be aware of the animal's location, if the animal is not contained, they should maintain a safe distance and observe its movements.

DO NOT CONTAIN a snake/goanna:

- *Goannas are not venomous, but they are capable of causing significant injuries with their bite, feet, and tail.*
- *A trained snake handler must rescue ALL snakes (or suspected snakes).*
- *If the snake/goanna is inside the house block access under doors to contain to one room.*

How to treat a snake bite I St John WA I First Aid Facts