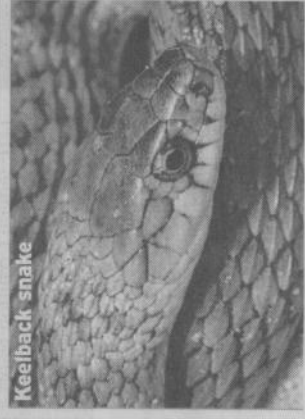


# Snakes bite alert as reptiles go roaming

## ONCE BITTEN



Keelback snake



Marsh snake



Brown tree snake



Small-eyed snake

### Treatment for snake bite

- Use a pressure-immobilisation technique by applying a pressure bandage over the bite site. Any flexible material may be used.
- Do not take clothing off as movement promotes the spread of venom. Keep the patient and the bitten limb still.
- Bandage upwards from the limb extremities about as tightly as you would apply to a sprained ankle and extend the bandage as far as possible.
- Apply a splint. Any rigid object may be used, even a rolled-up newspaper.
- Lie the patient down and call 000.
- Do not cut the bite and do not apply an arterial tourniquet to cut off circulation.
- Do not wash the bitten area. The snake may be identified by venom on the skin.

### Your pets

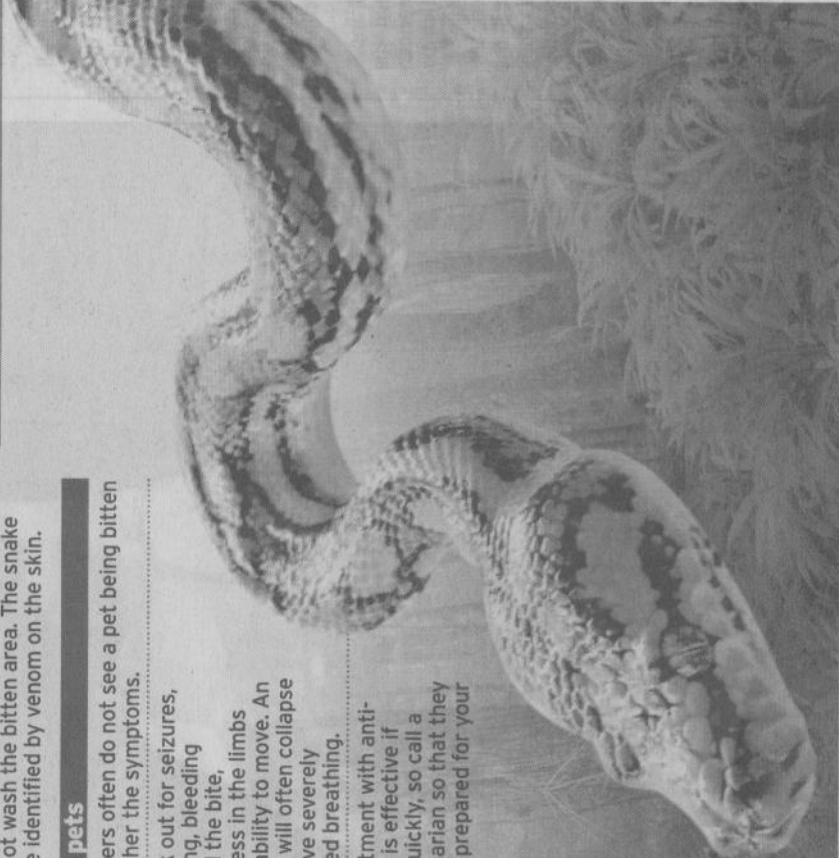
- Owners often do not see a pet being bitten but rather the symptoms.
- Look out for seizures, vomiting, bleeding around the bite, weakness in the limbs and inability to move. An animal will often collapse and have severely laboured breathing.
- Treatment with anti-venom is effective if done quickly, so call a veterinarian so that they can be prepared for your arrival.

### Brisbane's 10 most common snakes

Common tree	White-crowned snake
Carpet	Green tree
Red-bellied black	Yellow-faced whip
Keelback	Brown tree
Marsh	Small-eyed

There are 32 species of snakes in the greater Brisbane area, according to the Queensland Museum.

Contact the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service on 1300 130 372 and follow the prompts if you have a snake in your yard that you would like removed



Spring rains have created bumper conditions for snakes, with food in abundance. But damp conditions may see more reptiles on the move

### Brian Williams ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

THE La Nina-driven wet spring is tipped to produce a big snakebite season.

Australian Veterinary Association Queensland president Jodie Wilson said yesterday vets were recording increased numbers of snakebite cases across the state and walkers and pet owners should be wary.

"We expect more in the coming weeks due to

Dr Wilson said there was a large amount of food around for snakes, such as skinks, which usually led to good breeding.

"We think it's going to be a bumper season. There'll be plenty of snakes out there trying to protect eggs and young," she said.

"Normally, they might be under a log, but if it becomes a big puddle they have to get out."

Dr Wilson said it was important for pet owners to be aware of the signs of snakebite because it was uncommon to actually see the dog being bitten.

Symptoms included vomiting, seizures, weakness and breathless-

"If you see your pet with a snake, stay away so you don't get bitten and try to call the dog off," she said.

"Most dogs won't attack a snake, but just want to see what it is doing. It's this play behaviour that gets them into trouble."

Dr Wilson said cats lost most fights with snakes because of their small body weight. Long-haired dogs were sometimes saved from bites by their coats, but most dogs were bitten around the nose and face. Snakes that did the most damage to pets were

blacks and whip snakes.

A Royal Brisbane Hospital spokesman said three cases of snakebite had been reported so far this spring, the same number as last year.

Snake Catchers Brisbane says snakes would not strike unless provoked and 95 per cent of human snakebites occur when people try to kill or catch snakes.

They said the best way to deal with a venomous snake was to leave it alone.

