

RATTLESNAKE BITES !

What will you do if your horse is bitten by a snake ????

Snake bites on the horse's nose are the most dangerous. Horse's are

obligatory nose breathers, so if the nose swells too much suffocation and death can occur.

Thinking ahead is your best weapon. When going on trail rides, make sure you pack a **3/4-1 inch diameter piece of water hose at least 6 inches long**. This cheap piece of equipment will keep your horse's airway open, should the nose begin to swell shut. This hose should be placed all the way into the nostril, only leaving a 1/2 inch sticking out. If you can not get the hose more than a few inches in, you are in the upper blind pouch of the nostril. Pull out and aim lower until you get all 6 inches in. Leave the hose in until it falls out, which indicates that the swelling has decreased enough that the hose is no longer needed.

Call our office immediately! The horse will need a tetanus booster, antibiotics and anti-inflammatories to avoid further complications. The use of anti-venom is controversial in horses.

While you wait for help to arrive you should keep the horse quiet and remove any tack from the nose area if it starts to swell, but keep a rope around the neck for restraint.

From the Staff at the Equine Department of El Cajon Valley Veterinary Hospital

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