

Snake Encounters - What to do?

Most snakes are harmless and will only become aggressive when threatened or cornered.

❌ The Wrong Way to Meet



! If a snake bite incident occurs –
Get medical help and remember what the snake looked like as you need to describe it later

✅ The Right Way to Meet

Outdoor Encounter

- ✓ Stay Calm; keep yourself, children and pets away from the snake
- ✓ Slowly move away and keep a safe distance (at least 2 m) from the snake
- ✓ Leave it alone, as it will usually try to escape to the nearest cover

Indoor Encounter

- ✓ Stay Calm; keep yourself, children and pets away from the snake
- ✓ Move away slowly and keep a safe distance (at least 2 m) from the snake
- ✓ Call the Hong Kong Police
(If possible, someone in the vicinity should observe the snake until the Police arrive. They will remove snakes from private and public premises)



Let's Care About Our Natural Heritage

SNAKES



Learn to Live with our Wildlife

Facts about Snakes

Snakes are cold-blooded animals, which means they rely on the environment around them to regulate their body temperature. Their legless and tubular bodies are highly flexible. They are able to burrow, climb, swim and some can even glide.

In Hong Kong...

There are more than 50 species of native snake recorded in Hong Kong. Snakes are highly adaptable to their surroundings. The native snakes utilise various habitats including woodlands, shrublands, grasslands, cultivated fields, mangrove swamps, marshes, streams, ponds and reservoirs.

The largest snake in Hong Kong is the Burmese Python (3.7 m on average) and the smallest is the Common Blind Snake (10-15 cm on average).



Burmese Python (*Python bivittatus*)

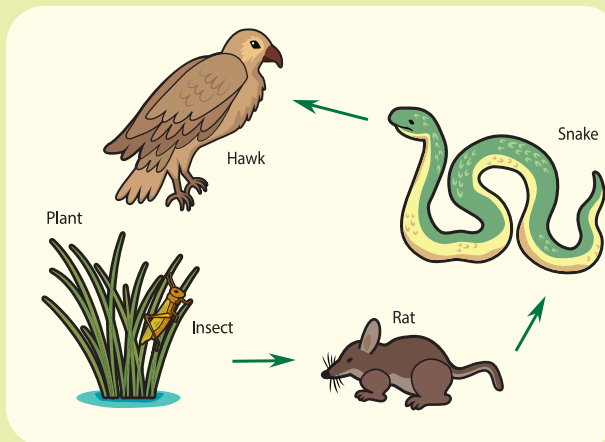


Common Blind Snake
(*Ramphotyphlops braminus*)

Importance of Snakes

Most people have an innate fear of snakes and think they are all dangerous. However, most snakes are harmless and are not as aggressive as many think. They play an important role in the ecosystem.

Snakes and other reptiles make up a significant proportion of predators in food chains that balance our natural ecosystems. Without them the numbers of prey species, for example rats, would increase to unnatural levels and the predators (for example hawks) that eat snakes would struggle to find food.



Conflicts between Humans and Snakes



Coral Snake killed after entering a residential area

In Hong Kong, there are increasing encounters between humans and snakes. The Hong Kong Police receive enquiries from the public about snakes found in residential areas, gardens and houses. They provide a service to deal with snakes and KFBG experts work closely with the Police and hospitals by providing identification, rescue and general advisory services.

Useful Contacts:

Hong Kong Police: 999

KFBG Hotline: 2483 7200

SPCA (HK) Hotline: 2711 1000

