

Poisonous Snakes Of Oklahoma

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Forty-six species of snakes are native to Oklahoma. Only seven species are harmful to humans. Venomous species are the copperhead, cottonmouth, and five rattlesnake varieties (the western diamondback, the timber, the prairie, western massasauga and the western pigmy).

Cottonmouths are aquatic residents of the eastern one-third of the state and those counties along the southern boundary, west to Comanche county. Copperheads can also be aquatic. Cottonmouths, copperheads, massasaugas and pigmy rattlesnakes are usually found in moist areas. Prairie rattlesnakes are found in the prairies of western Oklahoma while the timber rattlers inhabit the forested eastern half of the state. Western diamondbacks are most common in southern and western Oklahoma, but have been found as far north as Tulsa, Cherokee and Adair counties. Rocky outcrops are the favored habitat of rattlesnakes and copperheads. These outcrops provide shelter, basking and possible hibernation sites.

There are five features that can help you identify poisonous snakes. Presence of rattles on the tail positively identifies a snake as poisonous. Secondly, head shape can help identify poisonous snakes. Poisonous snakes in North America tend to have diamond or triangular shaped heads. Harmless snakes have narrow heads. Thirdly, vertical eye pupils "cat's eyes" are a strong sign a snake might be poisonous. Fourth, the best identifying character is the facial pit. This is a depression on the side of the face joint below a line between the eyes and the nostrils. The venomous snakes of Oklahoma have facial pits. Fifth, if you have a dead snake a poisonous snake can be identified by examining the scales under the tail. The tail of a snake is the portion of the snake that extends beyond the vent (anus). Poisonous snakes have a single row of scales immediately beyond the vent, while non-poisonous snakes usually have two rows of scales beyond the vent.

Snake numbers around homes can be reduced by altering habitat. Simply removing tall grass, brush piles, rubbish, etc. that provides potential cover will reduce snake numbers. Control small mammals, such as mice. Placing feed and grain in rodent proof containers will reduce rodent numbers and thereby reduce snake numbers. Snakes can be kept out of homes by sealing cracks in foundations, around windows, doors and air conditioners. These suggestions will reduce unwanted snakes around your home.

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Wheat Facts

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- There are seventy three one pound loaves of bread made from one bushel of wheat.
- One bushel of wheat weighs sixty pounds.
- One bushel of wheat produces forty-two pounds of whole wheat flour.
- A family of four could live off the bread produced from one acre for ten years.
- Each American consumes fifty-three pounds of bread on average each year.
- An average slice of packaged bread has only eighty calories.
- Eighty percent of Americans mistakenly believe bread is fattening.
- One loaf of bread contains approximately twenty cents worth of wheat.

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Guides to Purchasing Dog Food

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Nutrition of dogs can be supplied in an adequate manner through the use of good commercial diets available at most food, fuel and pet stores. Every dog owner can provide superior nutrition without becoming a nutrition specialist. Dog owners, by using commercially available pet foods can economically and conveniently maintain their dog's physical condition.

The label on commercial dog foods will provide a guaranteed analysis. This analysis, at the minimum will list the foods crude protein content, crude fat content, crude fiber content and the moisture content. These are important guides in selecting a food that will meet the nutritional needs of your dog in an economic manner.

Most dogs' diet and maintenance can be met with a complete dry dog food with a crude protein content of 16%, a crude fat content of 8%, and 60% carbohydrates. This level is insufficient for optimal growth and lactation. A level of twenty one to twenty three percent crude protein is recommended for most dog diets. This provides a safety margin to help meet the needs of dogs that have a slightly higher than normal protein requirement.

Water is essential to do health. Make sure all dogs have access to fresh water at all times. This is especially important in hot weather.

Fat is included in a dog's diet to provide a concentrated source of energy, essential fatty acids, a taste factor and a carrier for the vitamins A,D,E and K. Fat content in complete dry dog food will range from five to eighteen percent fat. Eight percent is the minimum for most dogs.

Energy needs of dogs vary with their activity level, stage of growth, and whether they are lactating or not. Hard working dogs, growing puppies or lactating females may require three times as much energy as a normal mature dog at maintenance. Grains are widely used as an energy source in dog diets. Grains are poorly digested unless they are heat treated. This is why dry dog foods are extruded (a heat and pressure process).

Fiber is important in a dogs' diet as it controls the condition of the digestive tract. Dry dog foods should contain approximately five percent fiber.

What amount should you feed your dog? As a rule-of-thumb, feed 0.5 ounces per pound of your dogs' body weight per day for a dog at maintenance. Keep in mind, however, dogs vary a great deal in their nutritional energy needs.

Some dogs require half as much energy per pound of bodyweight for maintenance than do others. It is important that the owner keep track of their dog's condition and adjust feed intake accordingly. Most dogs fed dry dog food free choice will consume the quantity of feed and calories needed to maintain their body weight: this amount varies from dog to dog.

Basically, complete dog foods come in three forms, dry, semi-moist or canned. The major basis of comparison of these three types is dry matter content. To make accurate economic comparison, it is necessary to calculate on a dry matter basis. Dry dog food generally contains ten percent moisture. This means each pound contains 0.9 pound of dry material. A pound of canned food may contain seventy five percent moisture which means each pound contains only 0.25 pounds of dry material. If the nutrient composition of the dry food and canned food is the same except for water, this means one pound of dry dog food must be replaced by 3.6 pounds of canned. Similarly, 1.26 pounds of a semi-moist food containing thirty percent moisture is required to replace one pound of dry dog food.

With this information, how much would it cost to feed a Dalmation for a year if he eats one pound per day and dry food sells for thirty cents per pound? How much would it have cost if the food had been replaced by canned food at eighty-two cents per pound, or semi-moist at \$1.01 per pound. Aren't you surprised at the \$109.50 annual cost for dry dog food, \$998.65 for canned or \$464.50 for semi-moist? This is an expensive way to purchase water in a food since moisture it contains could have been obtained from the water tap.

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