

OUR NATURAL

environment

LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

Every day in Greenwood Village, citizens have the opportunity to observe and enjoy an abundant variety of wildlife in Village open space, parks, and along the trail system. Because these animals have adapted well to our rural and urban living, it is important for citizens to understand how these animals habituate in a human environment. This will ensure citizens can still enjoy the sights and sounds of nature, while avoiding negative interactions with wildlife that may present conflicts to personal safety and property.



SNAKES

In Colorado, nearly all species of snakes are not only harmless, but beneficial to humans because of their appetites for insects and rodents. In urban Front Range neighborhoods, however, there are occasionally problems with prairie rattlesnakes. If you live where snakes are found or if you have an aversion to snakes, some simple habitat modification around your property will usually solve the problem.

- Keep firewood in a covered box.
- Do not landscape with expanses of large rocks, especially in open, sunny areas.

- Mow weeds and vegetation, and remove rocks, boards, and debris.
- Reduce the rodent population on your property to reduce a major food source for snakes.
- Seal entrances to crawl spaces, basements, and cracks along concrete and steps.

Venomous And Non-Venomous Snakes

Of the 25 species of snakes in Colorado, the western rattlesnake and the Massasauga are the only venomous species. The western rattlesnake appears in most habitats throughout the state. Rattlesnakes have elliptical pupils, distinctive heat-sensing pits on each side of their face and rattles on their tail. The Massasauga, however, is limited to the southeastern grasslands. There are six basic ways to distinguish these two venomous snakes from their nonvenomous relatives:

1. Rattles at the end of the tail.
2. Fangs in addition to their rows of teeth.
3. Facial pits between the nostrils and eyes.

4. Vertical and elliptical pupils that may look like thin lines in bright light. (Nonvenomous snakes have round pupils.)
5. A single row of scales between the vent and the tip of the tail. (Nonvenomous snakes have two rows of scales.)
6. Broad triangular head and narrow neck

What To Do If You Meet A Rattlesnake

- If you encounter a prairie or Massasauga rattlesnake (the only poisonous snakes in Colorado), simply back off.
- The snake senses your presence by your body heat and movement.
- In Colorado, rattlesnakes may be legally killed if they pose a threat. All other snakes are classified as nongame wildlife and are protected by law.
- If you have a snake on your property that will not leave the premises, call Animal Control for assistance.
- Stay on trails when walking especially in the spring to avoid accidental contact with snakes.

What To Do If You Or Someone Else Is Bitten By A Snake

- Try to remember the color and shape of the snake, which can help with treatment of the snake bite.
- Keep the bitten person still and calm. This can slow down the spread of venom if the snake is poisonous.

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LIVING WITH WILDLIFE VIDEO NOW AVAILABLE

Watch the Mayor's Show on GVTV Channel 8 or at www.greenwoodvillage.com to learn about a variety of species of wildlife in the Village area and how your family can live safely and in harmony with these animals. Video segments of each animal are also available at www.greenwoodvillage.com, click on Government Services, Police Department, and Animal Control.

ENSURING A SAFE *community*

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR CITIZENS' POLICE ACADEMY

The Greenwood Village Citizens' Police Academy is an important component of community involvement and citizen outreach. Its purpose is to provide a forum whereby participants can develop a basic understanding of how the Police Department functions. It will also provide opportunities for ongoing communication between members of the community and the Police Department.

Registration is now open for the 2010 Citizens' Police Academy. The Academy occurs in the fall each year and meets Thursday nights for 13 weeks in the evening from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., and two Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Greenwood Village City Hall, 6060 South Quebec Street.

Each three-hour session covers a variety of subjects ranging from basic law enforcement and its role in the community to discussions and demonstrations with other specialized units: Emergency Response Team (ERT), Crisis Intervention, Traffic, Crime Prevention, Investigations and School Resource Officers. Each session will have hands-on activities such as fingerprinting, high-risk traffic stops, use of less-than-lethal weapons, and the opportunity to participate in a police patrol ride along. This will be scheduled to take place outside the class time at a mutually convenient time for staff and participants.

The next Greenwood Village Citizens' Police Academy will begin on Thursday, September 9, 2010, and continue through Thursday November 18, 2010. The two Saturday sessions, are September 25 and November 6, 2010. Application forms are available online at



Citizens' Academy participants learn about the services of the Police Department as well as life saving skills such as CPR to use in everyday life.

www.greenwoodvillage.com or can be picked up at Greenwood Village City Hall.

Potential candidates must be:

- At least 18 years old;
- Have no felony convictions; and
- Have no misdemeanor convictions within one year of application.

The Academy is free of charge. For more information, contact Crystal Dean, Administrator Coordinator, at 303-486-8226 or e-mail at cdean@greenwoodvillage.com. *GV*

Living with Wildlife

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- Seek medical attention as soon as possible. Call 9-1-1.
- Apply first aid if you cannot get the person to the hospital right away.
 - Lay or sit the person down with the bite below the level of the heart.
 - Tell him/her to stay calm and still.
 - Cover the bite with a clean, dry dressing.

What Not To Do If You Or Someone Else Is Bitten By A Snake

- Do not pick up the snake or try to trap it (this may put you or someone else at risk for a bite).
- Do not apply a tourniquet.
- Do not slash the wound with a knife.
- Do not suck out the venom.
- Do not apply ice or immerse the wound in water.

- Do not drink alcohol as a pain killer.
- Do not drink caffeinated beverages.

Wildlife Assistance Or Questions

Call Greenwood Village Animal Control at 303-773-2525 or visit www.greenwoodvillage.com for more wildlife tips or to watch short videos on a variety of wildlife in the area. If you encounter an aggressive animal, please call 9-1-1. *GV*