

ISSUED BY THE SPCA WINDHOEK

Signs of Snake bite:

Vary largely with the kind of snake. The 2 most important ones for this season are puff adder (a snake with conical head) and zebra snake (definite black and white stripes)

Puff adder: it causes a localized reaction, severe swelling and the face/foot or region where the dog is bitten will start swelling within literally 1-2 mins of being bitten. They can if left untreated cause death. Luckily puff adder bites are easily reversible with anti venom if you take them to the vet with in an hour or 2.

Zebra snake: also causes swelling immediately but also causes vomiting (bloody vomiting with in 10mins of the bite) and gum bleeding. Unfortunately no anti-venom works for Zebra, they need a blood transfusion but have very slim chance of survival (even people have a slim chance)

In either case the immediate reaction from the dog would be a yelp and bark and retreat in pain. Please try and not take your dogs for a walk in the bush for the next 3 weeks as it the coming close to snake hibernation time and they will be very mobile at this stage looking for the right place to sleep off the winter. Also all the vet clinics and human pharmacy's have used up ALL their snake anti venom today (I just used my last one) and the next stock will only arrive on Saturday evening so please try and keep away from snakes till then.

My phone number is 0813542266 you can call any time for an emergency.
Cheri our nurse is also available on call: 0814183627

The bottom line is if you suspect anything at all, just put the dog in the car and drive to the vet and do not self treat.

If you are far out in the bush and cannot get to a vet , there are Venom suction pumps available (with questionable efficacy) but might be better than nothing you may want to travel with those. (I can find out where you can buy one if you are interested in investing in one)

All the best. And have a snake free year.
Minty