

Singleton's Animal Connection

1-866-Pet-Obey www.rattlesnakeavoidancedogtraining.com

Rattlesnake Avoidance Training Procedure

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING and pay close attention to your dog as he/she goes through the process of being trained to avoid rattlesnakes. **Please be quiet** during this process so as not to distract your dog. Learn to **watch for signs** from your dog that may alert you to the presence of a rattlesnake. (Rattlesnakes have been muzzled for your dog's protection).

1. **Sign-up Table:** Please fill out the necessary training forms. If you are a "drop-in" (no appointment) we will work you in as quickly as time allows. (please have cash or check ready).
2. **Staging Area:** When called, please proceed to the staging area to have equipment fitted to your dog.
3. **Station #1- Sight, Sound, and Scent—snake visible on dirt, cement, asphalt, or other hard surface:** Trainer, with dog, approaches the "striker" snake(s) downwind and the moment the dog notices or approaches the snake(s), stimulation is applied at a low setting and the dog is taken away to a neutral area and consoled. Fans may be used to direct the scent in a cone. This procedure is repeated until satisfactory avoidance behavior is noted by the trainer.
4. **Station #2-Scent and Sound recognition—snake hidden in a pile of rocks/wood:** A rattlesnake or snake skin is hidden in a pile of rocks/wood with an optional recording of a rattlesnake's warning rattle. The moment the dog notices, and/or approaches the smell of the snake, simulation is applied and again the dog is taken away from the danger zone and consoled. If the dog does not avoid the scent of the snake then the rattlesnake sound will be triggered to further reinforce to the dog that he must avoid the sound and smell of the snake, not just the sight. This procedure is repeated until satisfactory avoidance behavior is noted by the trainer.
5. **Station #3- Avoidance Behavior when Recalled on grass:** You will be placed 20 to 30 yards away from the trainer and your dog. Between your dog and you is a snake that your dog has not yet been exposed to. The trainer will release your dog and at the same time ask you to call to your dog. The dog should either not move (freeze), or go to one side to avoid the rattlesnake. **Move in the same direction as your dog, either left or right, while continuing to call him/her. When the dog successfully comes to you while avoiding the snake, greet him/her and take him/her and give praise and reinforcement for a job well done as you lead your dog away from the snake. If your dog freezes, that is an appropriate response also, and we will bring your dog to you.**
6. **Stations #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9: Owner Option:** If you like, you get to take your dog back through stations 1-3, up to two additional times, after successful completion by trainer. This is highly recommended as it is important for you to get a feel for how your dog reacts when avoiding a rattlesnake. The trainer will be present and reinforce the training as you visit the stations.

X

 I have read the above and understand its content

 Date

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Thank you for coming and tell your friends! See you next Snake Season!
 Karen Singleton, owner