



Region 8 Animal Control Newsletter

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Brazilian Cascabel

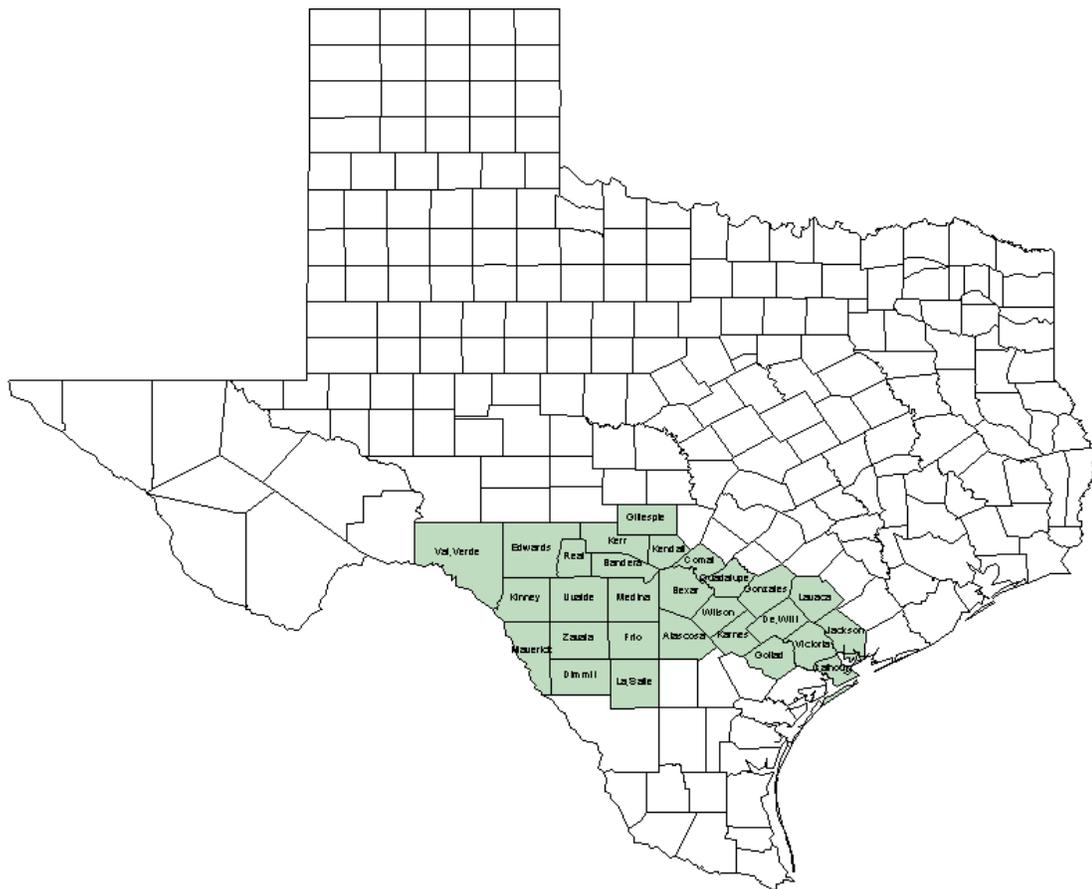
Photo courtesy Edward Wozniak D.V.M., Ph.D

The Venomous Snakes of Texas Health Service Region 8

Edward J. Wozniak DVM, PhD, William M. Niederhofer CO & John Wisser MS.

ABSTRACT: With onset of Spring, animal control officers, police officers, wildlife rehabilitators, animal rescue groups and others with animal interests or experience throughout the region will

likely receive calls for assistance that involve snakes and at least some of these will involve medically significant venomous species. North America is home to 2 distinct families of venomous snakes, the Viperidae, which includes the rattlesnakes, copperheads and cottonmouths, and the Elapidae, which is represented only by the coral snakes. While some of these snakes are easily identified, some are not and many rank amongst the most feared and misunderstood animals on earth. This article specifically addresses and illustrates all of the native venomous snakes that inhabit the region and is intended to serve as a reference for animal identification, field safety, safe capture and handling methods, and the currently recommended first aide measures for reptile envenomation.



Please click on the link below to go to the article.

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/region8/zoonosis.shtm>

DSHS ACO Training Course Schedule



Approved Courses conducted by the Department of State Health Services Zoonosis Control Branch¹

Call the number provided or click on contact name for the *course date* for which you would like to register to ask questions about a particular course.

Date	Type	Location	Contact(s)	Phone Number
*May 11-13, 2010	Basic	Tyler, Texas	James H. Wright, D.V.M., M.P.V.M Angela Hopkins	(903) 533-5212
*May 11-12, 2010	Basic	2408 South 37th St., Temple, TX 76504	Beverlee Nix, D.V.M. Leslie Platz Rebecca Hejnal Melissa Maass	(254) 778-6744
May 19-20, 2010	Basic	San Antonio	Edward Wozniak D.V.M.,Ph.D Justin Henefey Carleen Evans	(830) 591-4385
Jun 04-04, 2010	Cont.Ed.	San Antonio	Edward Wozniak D.V.M.,Ph.D Justin Henefey Carleen Evans	(830) 591-4385
Jun 22-23, 2010	Basic	Midland, TX	Susan Reese	(915) 834-7780
Jul 14-15, 2010	Basic	Conroe, TX	Gary Johnson Brittany Singletary Jael Miller	(713) 767-3300
Sep 14-15, 2010	Basic	2408 South 37th St., Temple, TX 76504	Beverlee Nix, D.V.M. Leslie Platz Rebecca Hejnal Melissa Maass	(254) 778-6744
Oct 26-28, 2010	Basic	Tyler, Texas	James H. Wright, D.V.M., M.P.V.M Angela Hopkins	(903) 533-5212
Nov 17-18, 2010	Basic	Sugar Land, TX	Gary Johnson Brittany Singletary Jael Miller	(713) 767-3300

¹These courses serve to meet the training requirements set forth in Texas Health and Safety Code, Ch. 829, Animal Control Officer Training.

*Indicates that a course is full.

Internet address for non DSHS courses

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/zoonosis/education/training/nonaco>

Reptiles and Animal Control
7.5 Hours of DSHS Approved Continuing Education Credits
Friday, June 4, 2010, 8 A.M. San Antonio Animal Care & Control Training Room
4710 State Hwy 151, San Antonio, Texas 78227

Part I, Snakes (Indigenous Species) 2 hrs

1. Snake Identification Part I (Native Species)

- a. Slide presentation
- b. Live collection viewing
- c. ID quiz

2. Safe Capture and Handling Methods

- a. Essential Tools and Equipment
- b. Handling Methods
- c. Safety Considerations

3. Transport, Housing and Disposition

- a. Housing Requirements
- b. Adoption/Donation
- c. Relocation

4. Snake bites

- a. Bite assessment
- b. First aide considerations
- c. Treatment
- d. Expected outcomes



Part II, Snakes (Exotic Species) 2 hrs

1. Snake Identification Part II ('Popular Exotic Species')

- a. Boidae
 - i. Large constrictors
 - ii. Small constrictors
- b. Common Non-native harmless colubrids
- c. Venomous species
 - i. Venomous colubrids (rear fanged snakes)
 - ii. Elapids (cobras, mambas, death adders etc)
 - iii. Viperids
 1. Crotalinae (pitvipers)

2. Viperinae (true vipers)
2. Safe Capture and Handling Methods
 - a. Non-venomous species
 - i. Large Constrictors
 - ii. Colubrids and small boids
 - b. Venomous Snake Capture, Restraint & Handling Methods
 - i. Handling tactics for Viperidae
 1. Terrestrial species
 2. Arboreal species
 - ii. Handling tactics for Elapidae
 - iii. Demonstrations
 1. Viper capture
 2. Cobra capture
 3. Arboreal viper strike range
3. Incident Risk Assessment and Safety Considerations
4. Snake Bite First Aide & Paramedical Considerations
 - a. Large constrictors
 - b. Viper bites
 - c. Elapid bites
5. Exotic Snake Anti-Venoms
 - a. Snake ID and product selection
 - b. Product availability

Part III, Other reptiles 1 hr

1. Large lizards
2. Crocodylians
3. Heloderms (Gila monsters and beaded lizards)
4. Turtles and Tortoises

Part IV, Scenarios and Situations resulting in a request for ACO Assistance – 1.5 hrs

- 1.** Wild or escaped reptile found in peridomestic setting.
 - a.** Native species
 - b.** Exotic species
- 2.** Captive Reptiles and the Law (Texas)
 - a. Permit requirements
 - i. Native species
 1. Protected species

- ii. Exotic species
- b. Situations Resulting in Animal Seizure
 - i. Zoning Violation
 - ii. Animal surrender/abandonment
 - iii. Substandard animal dealers (neglect)
 - iv. Police Assistance
 - 1. Captive Snakes discovered in drug raid
 - 2. Animal Owner killed
 - 3. Venomous snake employed as a potential weapon
 - 4. Animal theft, break-in and release
- c. Handling a Seizure
 - 1. Follow animal control protocol
 - 2. Animal ID and safe removal
 - 3. Disposition
- d. Disaster Response and Recovery Missions
 - i. Localized incidents
 - 1. Fire
 - 2. Tornados
 - 3. Terrorist incident (bombing)
 - 4. Mud slides
 - ii. Large scale disaster
 - 1. Major hurricane strike
 - 2. Flooding
 - 3. Earthquake
 - a. Promoting escape prevention in disaster prone areas
- e. Illegal transport
 - i. Couriers
 - ii. Airports
 - iii. Smugglers

**Part V, General Questions, Equipment familiarization, Specimen Examination
- 1 Hr.**

There is no charge for the class/ call 830-591-4385 for information

Texas Health Service Region 8 Current Reported Animal Rabies Cases 2010

2010	Jan	Feb	March	April	Totals
Calhoun				skunk	1
Goliad				skunk	1
Bandera		horse			
Bexar			Bat(2),skunk	Skunk 4	7
Comal		raccoon			1
Lavaca		skunk	bat		2
Goliad	skunk				1
Gonzales		Skunk 2	skunk	Skunk Dog	5
Guadalupe	skunk	skunk	Skunk 5, bat	Skunk 5 Bat 2	15
Uvalde		dog			1
Wilson			skunk	skunk	2
Totals	2	7	12	16	36

Large colorful Rabies Posters are available from our office at no charge for your next rabies clinic. Just call Carlee at 830-591-4385

Bats from the Austin Bridge
photo compliments of Dr. Edward Wozniak

