



**NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF SPCAs**

**HUMANE DETERRENTS AND PEST CONTROL:
SNAKES - 2014**

Version 1

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FOREWORD

While the National Council of SPCAs (NSPCA) acknowledges that under certain circumstances, pest control and/or extermination may be required, the NSPCA only supports the use of humane methods. The NSPCA does not support methods of pest management that cause suffering, pain, or distress to any animal.

- Regardless of the problems pest animals cause, they require the same level of consideration for their welfare as animals in other contexts.
- The NSPCA recommends adopting solutions to control pest issues before they begin/escalate as well as subsequent to humane control measures being implemented.
- The NSPCA encourages a review of control or deterrent measures be taken prior to coming to the conclusion that extermination is required.
- Conventional methods of extermination often involve the use of poisonous chemicals, which have effects on other non-target species, including humans. Other animals, children or adults can be harmed by an animal which has been poisoned or by the chemicals or baits used.

The position of the NSPCA:

The NSPCA is opposed to the manufacture, sale and use of all snares and any trap or trapping device or substance or form of animal control which causes or may cause suffering.

The NSPCA is opposed to the use of poisons and has specific concerns about the widespread agricultural and commercial use of chemical substances which are potentially harmful to animals.

For more information please contact the NSPCA Special Projects Unit directly.

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NON LETHAL CONTROL METHODS

1. EDUCATION

It is very important to know that snakes are more active during certain periods of the year. Snakes are mainly active during autumn and spring. Extra care should be taken during these times.

2. EXCLUSION

The best and most permanent solution is exclusion. This means to close off all possible entry points they could use. This can be done by using materials such as steel mesh, steel wool, expanding foam, wire mesh, chalk, concrete and cement.

Important guidelines:

- Seal any holes around pipes and cables going into the house.
- Make sure doors fit tightly and are not damaged.
- Seal gaps beneath the garage door.

Advantages

- Non-lethal;
- Non-toxic;
- No danger to secondary animals.

Disadvantages

- None, however requires some effort by humans but worth it in the long run. Only works well in areas that can be sealed / blocked off or kept closed. Won't for example work in big open factories where it's not possible to close every hole.
- Will only exclude snakes from entering buildings or outbuildings that can be closed off completely

This method is recommended.

3. CLEANLINESS

Good cleanliness practices eliminate food sources, water and shelter which might attract any snakes. Rodents are the main attraction of snakes and therefore it is vitally important to implement humane rodent control methods.

Important guidelines

- Snakes feel vulnerable in open spaces for this reason eliminate any possible hiding places by removing all rubbish, leaves, brush piles from around the house, sheds, garage etc.
- Keep any vegetation around the building short and tidy.
- Utilise humane rodent control methods which can be found on our website.

Advantages

- If there is no access to food sources like rodents or small mammals the snakes will go elsewhere;
- Assists in minimizing health risks due to absence of rodents;
- Non-lethal;
- Non-toxic;
- No danger to secondary animals.

Disadvantages

- Good hygiene is very important for controlling unwanted snakes, but hygiene measures may not prevent the presence of snakes where exclusion methods are not adequately in place and maintained.

This method is recommended.

4. SNAKE REPEL

Repellent spray should be applied to areas affected by snakes. The repellent spray can last up to four weeks.

Important guidelines:

- Must not be used directly on snakes;
- Can be used to prevent snakes from entering an area during their natural movement, will not solve an established snake 'problem'.

Advantages

- Non-lethal;
- Non-toxic;
- No danger to secondary animals.

Disadvantages

- Operator must make sure any other animals nearby are not also irritated by these strong smells.

This method is recommended.

5. SNAKE CATCHERS

Contact a snake catcher to locate the snake, catch it and relocate the animal to an appropriate environment.

Advantages

- Non-lethal;
- Non-toxic;
- No danger to secondary animals.

Disadvantages

- It is important to make sure that the snake catcher of choice uses humane methods and equipment. It is vitally important that the snake catcher does in fact release the snakes and does not keep or sell them.
- Only removes the individual snake, does not prevent snakes from returning to the area.

This method is recommended. Details of humane snake catchers can be obtained from your local SPCA.

For best results all aforementioned methods should all be used in conjunction and not as standalone.