



# Edgewood Veterinary Tips

by Dr. Kristy McCamy

## Rattlesnake Bites

Rattlesnakes are out and they can cause severe illness, even death, to our pets. One indication that your pet has been bitten by a rattlesnake is acute onset of swelling and pain. If your pet was bitten by a rattlesnake, bit it was a dry bite (no venom was inoculated) you may not see the above signs. In either case you should have your pet seen immediately by a veterinarian. Venomous bites depending on their location and amount of venom injected into your pet will determine how severe a reaction your pet will have and whether Antivenin is indicated. While a dry bite may not have any venom to cause a severe reaction, the snakes' mouth is bathes in potentially harmful bacteria that can cause infection in your pet. If your pet has received the rattlesnake vaccine you should still seek out veterinary care immediately in the event of a bite. We do not administer the rattlesnake vaccine. The vaccines efficacy and potency has not been fully demonstrated and reactions to the vaccine have been observed. Until studies prove the efficacy of the vaccine, we along with U.C. Davis per their website, have elected not to administer the rattlesnake vaccine. If you have questions regarding your pets, please come to **1055 Grass Valley Hwy.**, or call **530-885-1919** today. Consider joining our family.

P.S. Unfortunately, the amount of venom administered by the rattlesnake is always unknown. This is one of the reasons why our pets react so differently when bitten by a rattlesnake.



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1055 Grass Valley Hwy.  
Auburn  
**530-885-1919**