



MEDIA RELEASE

Snakes On The Move As Temperatures Increase

People in the Alice Springs region are being urged to be wary of snakes as central Australian temperatures increase.

Alice Springs Reptile Centre director Rex Neindorf urged people to call 0407 983 276 at any time of the day should they require snake removal.

Mr Neindorf said larger snakes most likely to be active this time of year are mulga snakes and western brown snakes.

“This year is expected to be a particularly busy time for us as it has been so dry in the Alice Springs region for many months,” Mr Neindorf said.

“While snakes don’t need water, as they don’t sweat and pass urine as a solid, they need to keep their fluids at a reasonable level and the best way of obtaining this fluid is through food.

“But because conditions have been so dry for such a long time, food is scarce compared to previous years, meaning snakes this year are likely to be more active than in previous years in their search for food.

“I urge people requiring snake removal to call 0407 983 276 as soon as they can, but keep in mind they need to watch the snake at all times to make our job of catching it much easier.

“If people requiring snake removal lose sight of that snake the chances are we won’t be able to find it, although the 0407 983 276 number is available 24 hours a day, so we’ll gladly return to the scene if the snake is sighted again.

“When people see a snake and report it to us, we recommend they watch the snake from a distance of between five and 10 metres as being adequate and rarely does it take us more than five minutes to get to where we need to be.”

Mr Neindorf said the 0407 983 276 number had responded to almost 10 callouts this past weekend, including the capture and relocation of an eastern brown snake.

He said people who have not already done so could insert the callout number into their mobile phones or locate it at easy to find places such as a fridge to save them from having to look up the number.

The Alice Springs Reptile Centre is contracted by the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service to provide snake removal at no charge to callers.

People in the Darwin region can call 1800 453 210, 24 hours a day seven days a week, should they require snake removal.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Rex Neindorf on 8952 8900

Issued: 4.30pm Monday, 23 October 2006