



WHAT NOT TO DO IF BITTEN BY A POISONOUS SNAKE?

- Do not try to catch or handle a live/dead snake.
- Do not move the bitten limb; do not run.
- Do not apply a tourniquet (it can cause necrosis of the limb).
- Do not attempt to cut/cauterize/suction the wound (such actions are almost useless as the venom quickly escapes into the bloodstream from the bite point).
- Do not drink alcohol (alcoholic beverages accelerate the spread of poison through the body).
- Do not use folk medicine remedies (swallowing peppers, applying ice, lotions/ ointments/ herbal pastes to the wound, etc.).
- Do not use potassium permanganate.
- Do not use electrotherapy.
- Do not take the patient to folk healers.
- Do not delay transportation to a medical facility.



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SNAKES of Western Kazakhstan



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SNAKE SPECIES INHABITING WESTERN KAZAKHSTAN



Sand boa



Smooth snake



Steppes Ratsnake



Sarmatian Rat Snake



Caspian whipsnake



Grass snake



Diced snake



Spotted Desert Racer



Diadem Snake



Steppe ribbon snake



**Karaganda
pit-viper**



Eastern SteppeViper

Western Kazakhstan (Atyrau, West Kazakhstan, Aktobe and Mangistau regions) is inhabited by 12 species of snakes. Three species are poisonous among them - steppe ribbon snake, eastern steppe viper and karaganda pit-viper. However, the bite of the steppe ribbon snake is not dangerous to humans, because the venom-conducting furrowed teeth are located at the rear end of the maxillary bone. The steppe ribbon snake can bite a person with these teeth only if a finger is deliberately put deep into its mouth. The bites of the eastern steppe viper and karaganda pit-viper are dangerous for the health and life of people and domestic animals.

WHY DO SNAKES BITE PEOPLE?

Of the 12 species of snakes in the region, 10 species are not venomous. Snakes bite humans only in self-defense, they do not perceive them as a food object. Snakes eat rodents, amphibians, fish, insects and other small animals. Eastern Steppe Vipers bite people only when they feel threatened. If a person accidentally steps on a snake, the snake may bite because the snake will assume it is being attacked. Most snake bites occur when people try to catch or kill them. Snakes prefer to avoid humans.

WHAT TO DO IF BITTEN BY A POISONOUS SNAKE?

- Call an ambulance or take the victim to the nearest medical facility immediately.
- If the bitten person is frightened and anxious, reassure them.
- Allow the victim to lie down in a comfortable and safe position.
- Remove all constricting clothing and jewelry that may interfere with circulation and aggravate swelling.
- If it is impossible to quickly deliver the victim to a medical institution, give the bitten antihistamine (dimedrol, loratadine, tavegil, levocetirizin, suprastin), provide him with rest in a horizontal position and plenty of water.
- To reduce the symptoms of intoxication, the victim should drink as much as possible (up to 3-5 liters of drinking or mineral water per day, tea, coffee).