

6 Snakes around your house

Many people spend a large proportion of their time in and around the house, so it's not surprising that around 30–40 per cent of snakebites occur here. While some bites (such as those of the Eastern Brown Snake) may be 'dry bites', all bites should be treated as serious, but medical treatment is such that they are very manageable and fatalities are rare.

Houses situated in dense suburbia are less likely to have slithery visitors, while rural properties and houses close to remnant bushland, parks, national parks or conservation reserves are more likely to have snakes. Snakes may enter properties for a wide range of reasons; however, there is strong evidence that food and shelter are the two most likely factors leading to a snake visit.

A source of food

Food for snakes has never been more abundant than in our yards. Urban environments have become a haven



Baby mice – a bonanza for any foraging snake.



An Eastern Tiger Snake in an aviary, Yarra Valley, Victoria.