



Hello, and thank you for choosing SNAKEOUT™ for rattlesnake aversion training. SNAKEOUT™ has been helping the public with rattlesnake education, assisting in removals, and conducting dog training classes since 2017. Since then, we have completed hundreds of snake removals in Northern California and trained hundreds of dogs to understand that rattlesnakes are dangerous.

The purpose of this document is to educate prospective customers on our process, as well as the inherent risks associated with Canine Rattlesnake Aversion Training. Due to these risks, SNAKEOUT™ Inc. and its managers, owners, and/or stakeholders (hereinafter collectively referred to as "SNAKEOUT™") are unable to accept responsibility or liability for any injuries sustained by your pets, residents, guests, or anyone else involved in the process.

Snake aversion training is a useful method for teaching dogs to avoid rattlesnakes. The goal is that if your dog(s) sees, smells, or hears a rattlesnake, it will attempt to avoid the snake by staying back, ignoring it, or going around it. We use rattlesnakes (*Crotalus atrox*) with their mouths humanely secured shut. This prevents the snake from biting while ensuring it remains safe and able to breathe and drink. During training, we place a snake in an open area and walk the dog toward it while using an e-collar to reinforce avoidance behavior. We also use a range of snake sizes and shed skins for scent exposure. The dogs learn through aversive conditioning (positive punishment) to keep a safe distance from snakes. The objective is for your dog to recognize and maintain a safe distance from any rattlesnake encountered in daily life. This contract is intended to clearly outline the goals of the class, as well as the terms and agreements required before training begins.

Some dogs require multiple training sessions, and we highly recommend repeating the training several times each year. While some dogs generalize this training to all snake species, others may not. This class does NOT guarantee that your dog will not be bitten in the future. Dogs may still accidentally encounter or step on snakes, which can result in a bite. Dogs may also forget their training over time and revert to previous behaviors. SnakeOut is NOT RESPONSIBLE if a dog is bitten by a snake after training. Owners must continue to follow safety practices and should NOT allow dogs to approach snakes or roam freely without supervision or a leash.

To move forward with scheduling Canine Rattlesnake Aversion Training, it is important that all prospective customers, as well as any involved household members (e.g., "dog parents" or family members), carefully read and review this document. Some dogs may require multiple sessions, and this training should be viewed as an ongoing process, with repeated sessions recommended throughout the year. While our program is designed for effectiveness, we cannot guarantee outcomes and cannot accept responsibility or liability if your dog is injured, whether during training or afterward in the field.

Again, it is HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to repeat this class multiple times per year (2–3 times).

Dogs with known heart conditions, musculoskeletal issues, behavioral challenges, general health concerns, or sensitivity to electronic collars SHOULD NOT be enrolled in Canine Rattlesnake Aversion Training. SnakeOut is NOT RESPONSIBLE for any physical or psychological injury to the dog.

The following breeds are typically not allowed due to health concerns and size: Pugs, French Bulldogs, English Bulldogs, dogs under 5 lbs, or dogs under 5 months of age (exceptions may apply).

All dogs must be up to date on vaccinations from a licensed veterinarian to reduce the risk of disease exposure.

**NOTE: As of September 2023, according to representatives from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), only albino rattlesnakes may be used in classes involving dogs.** While we would prefer to use naturally colored snakes, CDFW has stated that it is unlawful to use native, wild-type color morphs. This regulation is currently being challenged by SNAKEOUT™ in collaboration with the Pacific Legal Foundation and may change. Multiple dog training and behavior professionals have been consulted regarding this

adjustment, and the change in coloration is not expected to negatively impact training outcomes. To supplement this, we also test dogs using brown color gradients with rattlesnake mimics, including western hognose snakes (*Heterodon nasicus*).

We do have some important questions before we begin:

- What is the dog's name, breed(s), and sex?
- What is the owner's name present at the class today?
- Has your dog been trained by us or attended other snake aversion classes before?
- Does your dog have any medical or physiological conditions (e.g., heart conditions, muscle issues, behavioral concerns, or sensitivity to e-collars)?
- Has your dog ever been bitten by a rattlesnake?
- Has your dog had prior contact with snakes?
- Has your dog previously used an e-collar? Does your dog currently use one?
- Is your dog fully vaccinated, over 5 lbs, and over 6 months of age?
- Is your dog comfortable being handled by individuals other than the owner or family members?
- Are there any additional comments or concerns we should be aware of?

The customer acknowledges that they have read all pages of this document. By signing below, the customer confirms they are authorized to make decisions on behalf of the canine being registered and its owners and have discussed this agreement with all relevant parties, family members, or household members. The customer hereby releases SNAKEOUT™ from any and all liability as outlined herein, in accordance with the laws of the State of California, unless otherwise specified in this document.

Customer Signature: X\_\_\_\_\_