

# Venomous Snakes

## Anti-venom



Study*ladder*



# Anti-Venom

*Anti-venom is made from snake venom. It is used to treat snake bite victims. However, anti-venom is species specific. The anti-venom made from the venom of a brown snake, for example, will only work on a victim of a brown snake bite. Anti-venoms have been produced for each of the most poisonous snakes.*

*Snake venom is collected by snake handlers who milk the snake. The snake is held around the head and directed to a glass jar with a latex membrane stretched over the top. The snake bites into the membrane and the venom is injected into the jar. The venom is treated and freeze-dried into a powdered form.*



*Next, very small doses of venom are given to horses. Over time the doses are gradually increased and the horses build up antibodies in their blood which fights the venom.*

*Scientists then take a small amount of the horse's blood. They extract the antibodies and these are then used to make the anti-venom serum.*

*When the anti-venom is injected into the patient it attacks the venom, neutralising its effects.*



# *First Aid for Snake Bite*

*What should you do if someone is bitten by a snake?*

***Snake bites require medical advice. Check the first aid advice for your country.***

*Do you know the emergency number to call for an ambulance?*

***The emergency phone number varies in different countries. Australia's emergency phone number is 000.***

