

WHAT IS A DRY BITE?

When a person receives a bite from a venomous snake and where there is no venom involved in the bite, the term a dry bite is often used to describe it. It is those amongst the snake keeping community who usually refer to such a bite as a dry bite. But in actual fact it is almost impossible to receive a 'dry bite' from a venomous snake.

If a venomous snake bites you and all else remains equal, for example if 'the venom glands have not been removed from the snake', and the creature that bit you is just a stock standard venomous snake, then although it may not be life threatening, you will receive venom.

If a 'deadly' venomous snake has been milked for its venom (most venomous snakes are not deadly) and then that snake bites you then you will receive enough venom to do you harm; possibly serious harm.

In a milking, it is neigh on impossible to get all of the venom from a snake and after a milking the mouth can be awash with venom and from a deadly snake that can mean more than enough venom to cause you serious grief.

The reason that the term 'a dry bite' is a misnomer is that if a snake bites it is just that 'a bite' meaning that it means to bite and if it is venomous it means to inject venom. So regardless of whether or not the snake has been milked a bite from a venomous snake means that you will be envenomed. Milking a snake is not like draining the oil from a car.

If on the other hand you receive a warning 'nip' from a deadly snake then you may not receive any venom at all. A nip is usually fast and means that the snake did not hang on and chew as a snake may do.

A snake will often chew if it is attempting to subdue prey or if for example you are standing on a snake and, because it has no voice to scream it will hang on till you take you foot from the snake; and stop hurting it.

A nip may or may not result in a person being envenomed. For some reason at times a nip will leave you with venom at the site of the bite though often not enough to require treatment; you will not know that in advance so of course you treat all bites as serious and go to hospital for observation.

Many nips are 'dry' meaning you receive no venom at all so there can be a 'dry nip' 'but it is incorrect to refer to 'any' bite from a venomous snake as a 'dry bite'. If you get a 'bite' from a venomous snake then you 'will' receive venom; regardless of whether or not the snake has been milked.

**If a dangerously venomous snake bites you, take it seriously
So there can be a 'dry nip' but never a 'dry bite'**

www.snakeshow.net