

## **Operation Snake Season**

Snake season typically runs between October- March.

While we reap the benefits of the diverse landscape Melbourne has to offer, we are acutely aware of the dangers it also possesses all year round, but more specifically in the warmer months of the year.

The safety of our dogs takes absolute precedence over everything we do.

To ensure risk is minimised, or team are prepared to tackle the coming months to avoid the risk of Snakes.

We will be making some changes to the areas we adventure. We will be avoiding all highrisk snake areas across Melbourne. We will be avoiding all areas with high bushland and specifically those bush areas that fall near rivers. These are the areas of highest risk. **We instead will be sticking to open spaces with low bush coverage such as ovals, parks and large open spaces where bush density is low.** 

Whilst it's unfortunate our adventures may not be as picturesque as we have become accustomed to, we will still be able to have the same usual fun.

We do bear in mind that coming into the summer months a dip in water can be very beneficial to the dogs. We will always be balancing the risk of cooling off, however, still being wary of the dangers of snakes.

## **Incident response**

In the unlikely event a snake bite/ injury does occur our team will follow this process. Treat the wound as per our Dog First aid training (undertaken in the coming weeks), round up all dogs and immediately exit the park. We will then visit the nearest VET. The owner will be contact on route to the vet. We expect you to meet us there ASAP so our team member can be relieved.

## Our recommendation

While risk is able to be minimised it's not always avoidable. We will do our best to minimise the risk of snakes however, the risk cannot be eliminated. Walks with Olli will not cover the associated VET bills if a snake bite/ injury was to occur.

As a result of this we encourage all owners to have a look at taking out Pet Insurance. It gives you the peace of mind that in the unlikely event of a snake bite occurring, the financial cost will not impact the treatment of our dogs. Please ensure that if you do decide to take out Insurance that it covers all treatment related to snake bites/ injuries.