

SNAKE AVOIDANCE TRAINING

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 9, 2017

THE EVENT IS SPONSORED BY THE MISSOURI HEADWATERS GUN DOG CLUB AND WILL BE HELD AT THE "HORSE PASTURE". From Bozeman take Interstate 90 West 23 miles to exit 283 toward Logan Trident. Turn right on Buffalo Jump Rd then go left about 1 mile on I-90 Frontage road to Carpenter Road and take a right hand turn and go about 2 miles. You will find a green gate on your right side. You will be able to enter the gate and join us. Please close the gate.

WE WILL BEGIN AT 4:30 PM. In order to be efficient please arrive early and get signed up. We will accommodate everyone that is in line. However once the line has ended and the retest dogs have been run we will not set the snake station up again for late comers.

FIRST TIME DOGS WILL GO THROUGH FIRST; RETESTING DOGS WILL BE LAST.

***FIRST TIME DOGS: \$35 FOR CLUB MEMBERS; \$40 FOR NON CLUB MEMBERS

***RETESTING: \$15 FOR CLUB MEMBERS; \$20 FOR NON CLUB MEMBERS

THE PROCESS TO CONDITION DOGS AND SNAKES TO STAY APART IN THE FIELD IS RELATIVELY SIMPLE AND QUICK. BRING YOUR DOG TO THE EVENT WITH A SNUG COLLAR. THE HANDLERS WILL LEAD THE DOG TO THE CONDITIONING AREA. THE OWNER WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCOMPANY THE DOG. THERE WILL BE AN E-COLLAR PLACED ON THE DOG. THE DOG WILL BE LED TO THE AREA OF THE SNAKE WHERE IT WILL BE WATCHED CAREFULLY FOR ITS REACTION DURING THIS INTRODUCTION. IT IS GOOD IF THE DOG WANTS TO AVOID THE SNAKE BUT IT WILL BE SHOCKED FOR REINFORCEMENT. IF THE DOG IS CURIOUS AND APPROACHES THE SNAKE IT WILL BE SHOCKED, AND THEN MOVED OVER THE SNAKE AND SHOCKED. THE EVENT JUST TAKES A FEW SECONDS AND THEN IS OVER. ALL DOGS REACT DIFFERENTLY BUT ARE VERY HAPPY TO RETURN TO THE OWNER AND THEIR TRAUMA IS QUICKLY OVER.

THIS IS AN EFFICIENT AND HUMANE WAY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS BY USING E-COLLAR CONDITIONING. OUR EXPERIENCE IS THAT THE DOG WILL NOT NEED TO BE RETESTED AFTER THE INITIAL TRAINING, BUT YOU CAN DECIDE THAT FOR YOURSELF BY RETESTING YOUR DOG OR WATCHING OTHER DOGS BEING RETESTED.

While nothing is 100% guaranteed the rattlesnake avoidance training has proven highly effective in preventing rattlesnake bites. Experience has shown us that there is an added bonus to the owner because by learning to pay attention to their dog's behavior around snakes they may be able to avoid a snake encounter as well!

As a reminder no cameras are allowed and the dog should be wearing a strong collar with a metal buckle. Plastic buckles have been known to break during this training session allowing the dog to have to be caught before we can continue.