



Rattlesnake or Toad Avoidance FAQs

Rattlesnake Avoidance classes are held March - October
Colorado River Toad classes are held mid June - August

First Dog \$125	Second Dog \$105	Refresher \$75
1 handler required	2nd handler required	Must have taken class with the HSSA within the last 5 years.

Dog and Guardian FAQ

- Classes are held on Tuesday evenings with ticket times at 5:00, 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. and Saturday mornings with ticket times at 7:00, 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. The confirmation ticket will show times of classes from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. or 7:00 - 9:00 a.m. with your selected ticket time below. An additional confirmation will be emailed directly from our staff a day prior to your designated class date.
- If you are registered for the 5:00 p.m. or 7:00 a.m. training, please **do not arrive earlier than 5 minutes** before your ticketed time slot. Doors will remain closed until 5 minutes prior to class start time. If you arrive earlier, you will be asked to wait outside until your designated arrival time. Your designated start time is to keep us on schedule.
- This class is held in a group setting where all dogs and handlers arrive at their preselected ticket time to participate in a group lesson. Then, one at a time, each dog and handler are escorted outside to the rattlesnake course. The training itself lasts 5-7 minutes. After the training, each attendee will receive a certificate of completion. We request that each attendee allocate an hour of their time to complete the training.
- Guardians will provide positive praise and reinforcement throughout the duration of the training each time their dog avoids engagement with the rattlesnakes or toads.
- All dogs attending classes at the Humane Society must have up to date vaccinations to participate. Proof of these vaccinations must be shown to staff upon arrival. Required vaccinations include DAPP (Distemper, Adenovirus, Parvo and Parainfluenza Parvovirus) or DHPP (vaccines for distemper, adenovirus [hepatitis], parainfluenza, and parvovirus) and Rabies (appropriate to age).
- Dogs attending class must be on a 4'-6' leash, no extending leashes (retractable) allowed.
- If you have registered two dogs for this class, each dog must have their own handler.
- This training uses a dog's sense of sight, scent and sound throughout the course to reinforce the training.
- Dogs must be at least 6 months of age and have at least 6 month living with their guardian to be bonded.

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FAQs



- If your dog is over the age of 6 or has preexisting medical conditions, we recommend you consult your veterinarian to see if this class is appropriate for your dog. The HSSA is not liable for any medical conditions that may result from this training.
- The shock collar/e-collar is used under the supervision of a trained professional and is not intended to cause pain or harm. This device is only used to startle the dogs.
- If your dog is nervous, reactive or otherwise not comfortable in a group setting, we can accommodate you and your dog in a separate area to avoid that added stress. Please make sure to communicate this need upon arrival with HSSA staff.
- Refund Policy: HSSA will be happy to provide a full refund minus service fees for your training should you cancel your reservation within 48 hours prior to your class date. HSSA will then issue you a refund for any registration fees within ten working days of the event date. No refunds are issued for cancellations made less than 48 hours prior to the event or training date or for no-shows. No refunds are issued should a participant be removed from the program for violation of HSSA rules and regulations. We can easily transfer class dates and also credit your account for future use.
- We are able to offer a retest free of charge if your dog has had an encounter with a rattlesnake or toad after completing the training and did not avoid their presence. This will need to be determined by the trainer. Please be sure to email or call the trainer on the business card provided. A retest can be provided for any dog that has been through our training within the last year.
- Refresher classes are for any dog that has been through the rattlesnake or toad avoidance training with the HSSA within the last 5 years. If your dog was trained through another organization, we are unable to offer the refresher training. Each organization teaches this class in a different manner and often times with captive bred snakes that smell differently than wild caught snakes.

Snake FAQ

- We incorporate live wild caught Western Diamondback Rattlesnakes or Colorado River Toads provided by Animal Experts Inc.
- These animals have been caught in someone's home or property and will be released back in to the wild in an area that is less populated by people and pets.
- Snakes are muzzled with surgical tape to allow for normal movement and striking behaviors, however won't be able to bite or harm the dogs in the course.
- There are 13 species of rattlesnakes in Arizona - the most common is the Western Diamondback. When available, multiple species will be provided for the training.
- None of the snakes provided for this training are altered in anyway. They are wild, eat a wild diet and have normal wild behaviors. They have their venom, fangs and rattles.