



SURVIVING SNAKES

WOODY AND HIS OWNER PIPPA WITH DR MORGAN BENNY.

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With some summer weather finally upon us, we are now seeing an increase in dogs and cats being admitted for treatment following a snake bite. Whilst we are successful in treating most of the pets that come into the clinic, many also lose their lives either at home or whilst on their way to the clinic.

One of our most recent success stories is Woody, the six year-old Jack Russell Terrier, who has been bitten not once, but twice by a snake. Woody was first treated as a one year-old, and more recently following a second attack in his own backyard.

Luckily Woody was seen with the snake, and was rushed straight into the clinic for his life saving treatment. Because of the quick response by his owners, Woody was treated before the venom had caused any permanent damage to his body. Following several hours of intensive care leading to a complete recovery, Woody was able to go home to his family the following morning.

It is often impossible to prevent snakes from entering your yard, although there are several ways to reduce the likelihood of an unwanted visitor. Ideally you should remove all piles of rubbish, timber or anything on the ground that they could take up residence in, including water sources. Try to keep your lawn cut nice and short to ensure you can see if you have a snake in your yard and only let your pet out into your yard when you are supervising them. It is also a great idea to remove or prevent any potential food sources, such as rodents.

If you think your pet has been bitten by a snake, it is an emergency, and you should seek veterinary help as soon as possible. The earlier that treatment is given, the more likely it is that treatment will be successful.

Read early, read often

Robyn Goodwin has a story for adults too

I am often asked the question: "What sort of formal art training have you had?" The answer to this question does cause mixed reactions. I have no formal art training at all. I took art as a subject back in the 70s in years 10, 11 and 12. The real reason I took this subject was to escape English, maths and history. Plus I was at boarding school, and as an art student we were allowed weekend access to the art rooms. This was a great distraction from the monotony of regimented 24/7 school life.

Biology was also a favourite subject. I was most interested in studying plants and animals. I was and still am totally absorbed in Darwin's theory of evolution.

Many years passed after my six years of boarding at St Joseph's in Albury. The business of raising a family and working took over any thoughts of putting paint to paper. About eight years ago, our two daughters left home pretty much at the same time. Suddenly, I had free time at my disposal. The opportunity to draw and paint. My husband bought me a set of water colours as a gift. I had never used water colour before and instantly fell in love with the way the paint flowed. It was easy to fix mistakes and somehow the paint had its own agenda.

I found drawing single objects or landscapes didn't hold my attention, so I decided to write and illustrate a story; my first book entitled 'Zippers Easter Encounter'. I have a menagerie in our backyard so finding subjects was easy. Two good friends suggested I try and sell my book locally. That's just what I did. The book sold well. It was a real learning experience and quite an expense.

My idea was that my first book would support a second book. This did eventually and now I'm onto my eighth book. I call my series of books for children 'Backyard Tales' as all the characters in my stories live in or around our backyard. A chain of events occurred with my last two books. They are larger picture books encompassing rhythm, rhyme and repetition, with big

bright illustrations. I now have a distributor who helps deliver my books nationally and internationally and there are great bonuses that come with this deal. I also enjoy selling my books at markets and they are very



The Chatterbox Cat would chat at the owl,
"No more, no more,
Enough meow!"

The Chatterbox Cat took no notice at all,
Day and night, he continued to call.

Scar the rooster laid an egg,
How strange was that!
He blushed bright red.



well supported by Miss Ruby's bookshop in Braidwood.

I am passionate about bringing my backyard into the lives of kids that don't live in a rural environment. I use my art and stories as a platform to promote protection of our unique Australian flora and fauna. The people of Braidwood have been incredibly supportive of my work.

I truly believe passion is the key to life.

"Follow what you are genuinely passionate about and let that guide you to your destination."

(Quote from Diane Sawyer)