

SNOUTED COBRA - PHEMPHETFWANE

VERY DANGEROUS



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IDENTIFICATION FEATURES

This snake is mostly active during the day and prefers the hot climate areas of Swaziland.

- This snake is usually 1.2m to 1.8m in length and can become quite robust (fat) when it reaches full maturity.
- The colour is grey, light to dark brown, very often the colour of light honey.
- Mature adults have a broad copper band in the throat.
- Juvenile snakes will have a several lighter bands which become darker with age.
- The ventral (stomach) scales are light cream or yellow in colour.
- When threatened it will rear up and spread a large hood.
- It may hiss a warning.
- It can be very aggressive if threatened and will not hesitate to strike.

IMMEDIATE SYMPTOMS

This snakes' venom is highly Neurotoxic and a bite from this snake should be considered a medical emergency. **Immediate and urgent medical assistance will be necessary.**

The following symptoms may be apparent:

- Minimal to Mild swelling in most cases.
- Pain can be Minimal to Acute.
- The victim will have difficulty in focusing his/her eyes.
- The arms and legs will become weak.
- Speech may be slurred.
- Nausea and vomiting
- Difficulty to swallow.
- Increased salivation.
- Severe thirst.
- The chest will feel tight and the victim may have difficulty to breath.

FIRST-AID

The victim may need assistance to breath as the lungs may become paralyzed.

- Remember to remain calm.
- Gently wash the bite site with water, **nothing else.**
- Remove rings, jewelry and other restrictive clothing or shoes.
- Draw a ring around the bite
- Write the time the bite occurred next to the bite site.
- Keep the affected limb below the height of the heart.
- If you are close to a medical facility, immobilize the affected limb with a splint and apply a broad pressure bandage from the bite site up the limb. Please note that both these conditions need to be met in order for this method to be effective.
- **Only If far from a medical facility**, apply a broad band tourniquet around the highest part of the affected limb.
- Minimize all movement of the patient and limb.

