

Un-Chase! ® Snakes!

Alexis Davison

According to the Animal Emergency Centre, close to 6,500 pets are bitten by snakes each year in Australia. From October onwards warnings appear in the media about the dangers of snakes to our pets. In States like SA, where it is illegal to use shock collars, calls are made to legalise them so that dogs can be trained to avoid snake bites.

Scholars in Collars conducts much of its business in a semi-rural context, providing positive reinforcement based dog training programs to clients with pets, and working dogs, who are living in residential settings and small farm-style properties. Snakes are a usual part of this community, and are regularly seen on people's properties, frequent walking spots and roadways – with the occasional snake making its way inside a home!

With these two factors, Alexis saw the need for an Australian snake avoidance program based on positive reinforcement, and developed Un-Chase!® Snakes!

In this presentation, Alexis will discuss her Un-Chase!® Snakes! Program. This practical, hands-on presentation will be augmented with videos demonstrating Un-Chase!® Snakes! techniques, and footage from training sessions.

You'll learn how to use the techniques including:

- Management strategies
- Life skills training exercises that can be effective
- Training alternative behaviours to fluency
- Using the snake as a cue for an alternative behaviour

You'll learn how to incorporate these strategies into your own training programs, and gain ideas as to how to safely include snakes into your practise sessions.