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Removing Rattlesnakes From Human Dwellings Using Glue Boards

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A method using glue boards to remove rattlesnakes (*Crotalus* spp.) is being tested. Preliminary results of tests conducted in controlled situations indicate the method may be very effective. The glue boards are cardboard or plastic rectangles covered with a sticky material similar to fly-paper glue. The glue boards are tacked on anchored plywood approximately 24 x 16 x 1/4 inches (61 x 40.6 x 0.6 cm). The glue boards are arranged to form a minimum area of 12 x 6 inches (30.5 x 15.2 cm). It is important to avoid attaching anything the snake can use for leverage that might allow it to exert enough pressure to overcome the glue. A small hole should be made in the plywood to allow retrieval of the board with a hook. The glue board is placed tightly against the wall because snakes tend to follow walls rather than proceed across an open area. So far, this method has been tested on 2 bullsnakes (*Pituophis melanoleucus*) and 7 diamondback rattlesnakes (*C. atrox*) that were put in a 4 x 15 foot (1.2 x 4.6 m) water though. Lengths of the diamondbacks tested were 5.5 feet (1.7 m), 5 feet (1.5 m), 4.5 feet (1.4 m), 4.7 feet (1.4 m), 5.2 feet (1.6 m), 5.3 feet (1.6 m) and 4.2 feet (1.3 m). The 2 bullsnakes were 5 feet (1.5 m) and 5.4 feet (1.6 m). Initial contact time was a function of the activity of the snake but varied from 10 minutes to 12 hours. All snakes were left on the glue boards for at least 2 hours to be sure they could not escape. In all cases, however, their struggling ceased within 15 minutes. Size of the snake does not seem to effect the chance of success because of correspondingly increasing surface area. Field tests are presently being conducted to determine considerations in less controlled situations.