

# Education Animal Handling Policy

## *Bull Snake*

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House Name: Carl

Birth Date: July 2001

### **Handling Guidelines**

Handling Attire: Rubber gloves

Animal Restraint: Grab snake behind head gently but firm. Fingers should be positioned on the two sides of its head during restraint instead of above and below. With other hand hold snake body for support.

Animal Presentation: Snakes should be held with the head directed away from guests. Animal handlers should keep one of their hands no further than 1/4 of the body length away from the head. This will allow some free movement for the snake to keep it more relaxed, yet does not allow it freedom to strike any great distance. Guests may touch the lower back. Do not allow guests to touch the head or be within striking distance of the head.

**Under NO circumstance should program participants or zoo guests be allowed to handle animals. The only direct contact they may have is touching those animals deemed appropriate by Zoo Staff. You go through special training to have this opportunity.**

Signs of Stress: flighty movements (trying to get away)  
labored breathing  
hissing or striking  
hiding

### **Travel Logistics**

Travel Enclosure: Styrofoam Box

Bedding: Place the snake in a pillow case that is large enough for you to tie it shut. Place the pillow case in the Styrofoam box.

Special: Since reptiles are ectotherms, extreme weather conditions should be considered when taking them on programs. In addition, this bull snake is rather active. Handlers will want to get the snake out a little before they bring it out to the group so it can calm down a bit if possible.

NOTES: Guests should be reminded to wash their hands after touching this or any other reptile. Reptiles can carry the salmonella bacteria and all should be treated as such.

Visitor Experience: Handler must be near a wash station before allowing guests to touch this animal while on grounds. Handler must remind guests to wash hands after touching this animal. **Never set a reptile on public railings, tables, benches, etc.**

Wash Stations: Kids County, Giraffe Station (Restroom 2 next door also, Zoo Entrance (Restroom 1)