

Here are more letters received. For easier viewing, our comments are written in Times New Roman and in block, while the letters are in plain Arial.

We've had replies sent to us received by other members and some of those have been included here.

To: trajan11@hotmail.co.uk
From: paul.crosby@chichesterinc.com
Date: Mon, 24 Feb 2014 20:05:50 -0500
Subject: Rattlesnake Roundup

Hello Chris,

Thank you for your letter.

I have spent many weeks on walking tours of the British Isles (Cornwall, Devon, Cotswolds, Northumberland) and touring London and southern Scotland. I agree that there are too many people on the planet and that animals suffer from this. In my "free time" I like to read about history, current events, and wildlife. The rattlesnakes are rounded up for the same reason you would round up venomous animals in your backyard--or at least I assume you would if there were any wildlife left in Britain. I think it is wrong that humans are overrunning the planet. What do we do about that? I have no children. When I am dead, my damage to the planet stops. I have found very few people who understand this linkage. We see highways continuing to encroach on virgin territory in Canada and elsewhere and animals will suffer as more people come in. I grew up in the countryside in southern Illinois as was scared out of my wits when I walked outside and found a copperhead or other snake on our porch.

For what it is worth, the meat from the snakes is eaten. The crafts are by-products. I have found our business fascinating and do not actively encourage the killing of any animals. I agree with you that humans encroaching on rattlesnake territory does not bode well for the rattlesnakes. **The people are not going to let these animals run around in their backyard. How else do we protect this territory?**

Sincerely,

Paul Crosby, President

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Thank you for the letter Paul. There is such a thing as relocation, this works well with Australian crocs. etc.

To: trajan11@hotmail.co.uk
From: ianbatesphoto@gmail.com
Date: Mon, 24 Feb 2014 13:57:42 -0500
Subject: Re: Rattlesnakes.

Chris,

Matt is my friend and we photographed the Roundup together. He is also a journalist merely documenting a way of life to share with others who may not know it exists. Neither he or I have a stance in either direction on whether the roundup should happen or not because we are journalists. Let me make that clear. I documented it, shared it with the world and that's it. I cannot send you images because that would be advocating in one direction instead of **documenting the event objectively** which is my job as a journalist.

Thank you.

Ian

Sent from my iPhone. Please excuse any typos.

Please note 'documenting the event objectively.' This is a letter from someone who provides film footage to those who glorify these advents but feels anyone who might feel compassion for the snakes, using it for their benefit, would not be using it 'objectively. '

From: arbreisch@yahoo.com
To: h.pagan.pla@aim.com
Sent: Mon, 24 Feb 2014 12:28
Subject: Re: '2 Rattlesnake Roundup.' cont'd.

Henry,

I am very much opposed to gassing rattlesnakes and have signed several petitions in the past. I was thinking, wouldn't a deliberate pouring of a petroleum product down a hole count as a "spill" by the EPA and be subject to prosecution, fines, and cost of clean-up?

Al Breisch

Yes, you'd 've thought so. I'm not sure how this would work in practice if the wanted to secure a prosecution, especially in Texas. Chances are you'd have a judge who would be on side with the state's own policies.

From: info@peta.org.uk
To: h.pagan_pla@hotmail.co.uk
Sent: 12 March 2014 18:47:09
Subject: Re: '2 Rattlesnake Roundup.' cont'd.

Hi Henry,

These snakes are far more beneficial to you alive than dead. They consume vast amounts of rodents, keeping your home safe from these four legged invaders. Mice are known carriers of disease, they contaminate food with their urine and faeces. They destroy stored items and turn it into nesting material. The bacteria left behind by their feeding habits can make us sick. Not to mention their incessant chewing and scratching will drive you up the wall when it wakes you up in the middle of the night. Snakes are the ultimate mouse trap.

Besides the fact that venomous snakes are awesome creatures, and beneficial in the rodent control they provide, there are other reasons to let them live. Their venom is used in the making of numerous life saving drugs, such as blood pressure medicine and some cancer medicine. If we as a race destroy these potentially "life saving" creatures we may well have to learn how to survive without the venom they produce which ultimately has the power to save many more lives than it will ever destroy.

Each one of us has to make choices in life, and often those choices directly affect those around us. If we choose to be intolerant of the snakes that sometimes share our world, then we will most likely raise children with the same degree of intolerance. We are better than that, that we are capable of great compassion even for creatures we do not like or that scare us. We can teach respect and tolerance for all living creatures; instead of teaching our children to kill those things that we do not understand, we can strive for understanding. Ultimately the world will be a better place for us and for our children, and I am sure the snakes will thank you too.

Good luck and all the best with your work.

PETA UK.

To: trajan11@hotmail.co.uk
From: ralex@suddenlink.net
Date: Mon, 24 Feb 2014 12:46:04 -0600
Subject: Re: Rattlesnakes.

Why don't you come over here and see what happens instead of mouthing about it. You are the one that needs to get a life

Sent from my iPad

On Feb 24, 2014, at 1:01 PM, c P <trajan11@hotmail.co.uk> wrote

Hi,

I see all I need to see on film footage thank you very much.

From: mark32669@yahoo.com
Subject: Re: Rattlesnakes.
Date: Sat, 1 Mar 2014 16:11:13 -0600
To: trajan11@hotmail.co.uk

For one thing it was rattlesnake sacking competition not a round up dumbass. Also we didn't slaughter snakes. So get your facts straight before you send messages cause it does make you look stupid. Furthermore we haven't had a snake show in two years. Another screwup on your part. So in closing you need to get a life cause you suck as a TREE HUGGER. Have a nice day.

Sent from my iPhone

In order to clarify, we sent a message back asking exactly what a 'rattlesnake sacking competition' entailed. The reply is given here.

From: mark32669@yahoo.com
To: cates.1980@aol.co.uk
Sent: Tue, 4 Mar 2014 16:43
Subject: Re: Rattlesnakes.

Well two people get into a pit. We then pour ten rattlesnakes out on the floor. When we pin the first snake time starts. The team that gets all the snakes in a bag the fastest wins. If we get bit, it's five seconds of our time for every bite. If the snake is injured we get disqualified. After we are done with the snakes they are used to educate people especially kids so they know what they look like in an controlled environment. The ones we don't keep we sell to people that use them for training animals or to people that milk them to make anti-venom.

I have to say I'm not convinced. Serves no interest for the snakes themselves and seems a bit like a circus act to me!

From: CoorsLightOnline@CASupport.com
To: pendine68@yahoo.co.uk
Sent: Monday, 3 March 2014, 15:18
Subject: Regarding Case #:22053375

Thank you for contacting us with your concerns regarding the Sweetwater Rattlesnake Roundup.

MillerCoors does not have any direct involvement with the activities in Sweetwater. The local distributor who sells and markets MillerCoors brands in that region supports the Sweetwater Jaycees as part of the distributor's commitment to giving back to the local community.

The annual Sweetwater Jaycees Cook Off & Dance is one of the organization's biggest fundraisers, and the Rattlesnake Roundup is part of this bigger event. **Neither MillerCoors, the local distributor nor Coors Light actively support the Rattlesnake Roundup.** We have a presence at the broader event because of the distributor's ongoing contributions to Sweetwater Jaycees.

We appreciate your concerns and will be sure to share them with the local team.

Sincerely,

MillerCoors Consumer Affairs Department
Ref: Case#N22053375

We're still receiving letters from Coors Light saying, neither MillerCoors, the local distributor nor Coors Light actively support the Rattlesnake Roundup. Please see the image below once again. Precisely what's this poster doing at the event, 'largest snake contest sponsored by Coors light?' Pray explain????



From: pendine68@yahoo.co.uk
To: stacystork@aol.com
Sent: Monday, 10 March 2014, 16:23
Subject: Re: rattlesnake roundup

I do not know how I got on your hateful email list, but please remove me.....I do not roundup rattlesnakes!!!!!! You should be careful when you are being mean....make sure what you are spewing.

Here's yet another letter pleading innocents of all knowledge. Have been on the net and have found these two items below (see highlights). Here we see the name Stacy Stork together with Rattlesnake Sacking Championship and Crafts Show. When they talk about 'Crafts Show' they mean mounted snake-heads, charms and snakeskin belts etc. Because they don't actually kill the snakes themselves they think they're somehow exempt from responsibility.

Texas Craft Shows

www.alotofcraftshows.com/texas_craft_shows.html Show Dir: Stacy Stork Ph: (361) 643-2475 Online: ... Rattlesnake Sacking Championship and Crafts Show 05/08 - 05/09
2010 Murphy Park - Taylor, TX

Rattlesnake Sacking Championship and Crafts Show

05/08 - 05/09 2010

Murphy Park - Taylor, TX

Promoter: Taylor Jaycees

Show Dir: Gem Naviar

Ph:(512) 275-6196

Attendance: 3,500 Food Fee:Contact

Exhibitors: Exhib. Fee:\$60

Deadline: Crafts:03/20/2010

From: jim@backyardnature.net
To: h.pagan.pla@aim.com
Sent: Wed, 5 Mar 2014 13:51
Subject: Jim in Texas

Hi Henry.

Thank you for your efforts with regard to the rattlesnake roundup.

What you say about those of us who are against such things, while the broad community sees such behavior as just good clean fun, fairly hits the mark. This week some research in "how to convince people that they are wrong" came out, and I thought I would share it with you because it seems to apply to our situation.

The research looked at a belief that arose some years ago among some religious fundamentalists here (of which we have plenty) that inoculations for some common and serious childhood diseases somehow cause autism. Gradually the belief became current in such a large part of the population -- people wanting to be thought of as "godly" -- that efforts to contain these diseases in the US are being hurt considerably, and kids are beginning to suffer from these diseases again.

It was found that, paradoxically, you can convince these people that they have been wrong and that their kids should be inoculated, but many of these same people, after learning the truth, are LESS likely to have their kids inoculated. The study is discussed at.

<http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2014/02/vaccine-denial-psychology-backfire-effect>

It's not known how this works, but a guess is made that people don't like to have pointed out to them how uninformed and wrong-headed they are, and after learning the truth, perhaps on a subconscious level, do things that to their minds retaliates against those who have corrected them. Thus keeping their children from being inoculated is a jab at the people who put them down.

I believe that this mechanism is a powerful component of the debate about the rattlesnake roundup, with profound relevance for how the debate should be conducted. To me it suggests that a way must be found to inform, without criticizing.

I would be interested in your thoughts on this matter.

Jim

Hi there Jim,

Two points here.

First, this subject of inoculation I personally have mixed feelings about myself. I fully agree that real dangerous diseases like smallpox, polio, and there are several others, that positively should be stopped. But things like the flu jab for example, I believe you can actually increase your own natural immunity by having the disease. As far as the three in one jab goes, there has been some well documented research concerning autism and that the risks may or may not exist. As for knowing this to be fact, I'd have to say I have an open mind on both arguments, without having really looked into the study I cannot say yes or no to it being the case. As for trusting any doctors, you might as well go outside in the street and talk to the bloody lamppost as get any advise from them.

Second, rattlesnakes and the correlation as to how we should be less critical of cold-blooded murder but inform without criticizing too much. Someone once wrote a book 'How to Win Friends and Influence People;' my wife bought me a copy for a joke. But I did actually read it. I guess this might have it's place and might even work for some, but I'm the kind of guy that likes to call a spade a spade so to speak and although I'll certainly take on board as a tactic for those I think I may be able to get though to, this is an approach which does have certain limitations.

Thank you anyway.

Concluding: We print any letters here from all sides of both arguments. So long as it's relevant to subject matters, and provided it's not obscene, we will print it. If you disagree with anything that's said, please write in. This is a public arena so please feel free to have your say.