Rattlesnake Avoidance Training
Shock vs Progressive Methods

Shock
[aka "stim", "remote", "e-collar"]

**GOAL:** Administer pain to a dog so that they fear snakes and move away.

**PROBLEMS**

1. **CONFUSION:** Dog is not given the opportunity to learn.

2. **BEHAVIORAL FALLOUT:** The dog could learn to aggress/fear other things in the environment, like parked cars, trees, other dogs/people, even children.

3. **STRESSFUL FOR THE SNAKE:** Live rattlesnakes are taken from their natural habitat and have been defanged or muzzled.

4. "Refresher Lessons" offered later repeat the painful experience.

Positive Reinforcement

**GOAL:** Teach your dog cues to move their own body away from snakes without pain or fear.

1. Dog is taught to **respond to their human's cues** by moving their own body away from a rattlesnake.

2. Dog is taught to **see and hear the rattlesnake as a cue** to move themselves away.

3. Dog is taught to **assess the threat and disengage.**

4. No pain, fear, or confusion in training.

5. Snakes are not used or harmed.

6. "Refresher Lessons" are not necessary if behaviors are maintained.

**BONUS!**
Progressive Rattlesnake Avoidance Training methods can also be used to teach your dog to safely avoid other potential threats in the environment, like coyotes, raccoons, toxins, or dangerous humans!