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Snake charming *Frank Cassanova*

snaring rattler - description

Getting rid of snakes is easier

**when they
cooperate**

Just about a year ago I wrote about a red racer that got stuck in a basket of half-inch hardware at our house, and perished when the afternoon sun reached it. This spring a large bull snake seemed determined to crawl into inch chicken-wire baskets at the end of the house, and it took considerable effort on our part to dissuade it. Then on July 7, the inevitable; a coon-tailed rattler made a couple of S loops through some inch chicken-wire protecting a pyracantha and got stuck. By the time I found it the following day it was quite dead. So that's one easy way — for you.

On July 10, Penny Cox found a good-sized coon-tail coiled up on the ramp leading to her door. Since this effectively barred her pet roadrunner from its daily visit, and her

dog Chico from his morning constitutional, she decided it had to go. The next noon it was coiled up asleep beside the water dish for wildlife, or maybe awake, waiting for some little critter to come in for a drink. It offered no resistance as we slipped a loop over its head and didn't rattle or writhe as we lifted it off the ground to deposit it in a 30-gallon metal garbage can.

But when the loop was loosened and it dropped to the bottom of the can, it came alive, bounced like a ball, and got its head and about 6 inches of its neck (or maybe even some of its body?) over the edge of the can. When we tried to poke it back into the can with the catcher pipe, somehow that didn't work and the next instant it was back on the ground. Fortunately it went in the right direction (away) and not very far.

This time it did not accept the loop as readily, but we finally got it into the can, the lid on, and hauled off to the desert far from any habitation. Three times I dumped the can upside down and twice when I tipped it back on its side and tried to roll it away from the snake, she crawled back in before I could roll it away. On the third try she decided she had enough of that sport and lit out in a straight line for Wickenburg. And that's an easier way — for the snake. (The following day we had an encore.)