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Man recovering after rattlesnake bite

Dog and its owner struck while out on walk Friday night

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The Detroit News

Orion Township — An Orion Township man bitten by an eastern massasauga rattlesnake, Michigan's only venomous snake, is recovering after being treated with anti-venom at a local hospital and released Friday evening.

The unidentified man was walking with his beagle in the woods behind his home around 6:45 p.m. when he was bitten, according to Sgt. Mark Buffa of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office.

Beaumont Hospital spokeswoman Karen LeDuc said the man was brought in shortly after the bite.

"He was treated by an anti-venom we received from the Detroit Zoo, and released," she said.

Buffa said the man's dog was bit first. When he "came up to investigate, he got bit," Buffa said.

The dog's condition was unclear late Friday.

The eastern massasauga rattlesnake is found in a variety of wetlands and woods throughout the lower peninsula.

It is the only Michigan snake with segmented rattles on the end of its tail and elliptical ("cat like") vertical pupils in the eyes. The neck is narrow, contrasting with the wide head and body, and the head appears triangular in shape. It usually feeds on small rodents and frogs, and adults can grow to 2

to 3

feet long.

Friday's incident marks the third snake bite involving an eastern massasauga rattlesnake in a month.

A dog was bitten by one in late September and also treated with anti-venom from the Detroit Zoo.

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