

Turtles linked to *Salmonella* outbreak



Turtles
can turn into
dangerous pets if
carrying
Salmonella

Salmonella from pet turtles sickens 103 in 2007

Salmonella infections can be severe, leading to hospitalization and, in some cases, death

Contact with small pet turtles was to blame for 103 *Salmonella* infections that occurred in 33 states between May and December 2007, according to federal health officials from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Turtles and other reptiles are well-known reservoirs for

Salmonella and while the sale and distribution of small turtles – measuring less than 4 inches – was officially outlawed in the U.S. in 1975, cases of turtle-associated *Salmonella* infection continue to occur.

The CDC's investigation into the outbreak also revealed that in a subset of 60 infected individuals interviewed, only one-fifth were aware of the link between *Salmonella* infection and contact with reptiles.

- Keep pets out of the kitchen
- Wash hands following any petting
- Especially avoid pets with diarrhea

A 3-week-old Florida infant was killed and 21 other small children across the U.S. were sickened by *Salmonella* associated with pet turtles over an 8-month period from 2006 to 2007.

CUTE PETS CAN= ILLNESSES



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