



A MINUTE OF HEALTH WITH CDC

The Trouble with Turtles

*Multistate Outbreak of Human Salmonella Typhimurium Infections
Associated with Pet Turtle Exposure — United States, 2008*

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This program is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC — safer, healthier people.

Owning a pet can be fun and educational for children, but certain animals can cause illness. A recent CDC report documented a large *Salmonella* outbreak associated with small turtles. Selling turtles with shells under four inches long as pets is illegal in the U.S. because they can cause serious *Salmonella* infections in people who handle them or come in contact with the water they live in.

After touching or cleaning a pet's habitat, hands, sinks, and other surfaces that came in contact with the animal need to be thoroughly disinfected. Households with children under five years old should not own turtles. Taking a few simple precautions can make raising a pet a rewarding experience.

Thank you for joining us on *A Minute of Health with CDC*.

For the most accurate health information, visit www.cdc.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO, 24/7.