



A MINUTE OF HEALTH WITH CDC

The Trouble with Turtles

Multistate Outbreak of Human Salmonella Infections Associated with Exposure to Turtles — United States, 2007–2008

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

Sometimes small turtles – meaning those with a shell of 4 inches long or less – still turn up as household pets in the United States, despite longstanding regulations restricting their sale. Turtles are a known source of *Salmonella*, a germ that can cause serious illness with diarrhea, fever, and vomiting. These turtles may seem harmless, but their small size makes them easy for children to handle, and get sick from Salmonella. Most people who get sick from turtles don't realize there's a connection between the turtle and their illness. The best way to prevent this illness is not to have pet turtles in your house and to teach children not to touch turtles.

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