



PARENTS & CARE GIVERS: BABY TURTLES CAN BE HARMFUL TO YOUR LOVED ONE'S HEALTH



In 1975, the federal government banned the sale/distribution of live baby turtles to prevent salmonellosis infections in young children. It is estimated that about 1,000 cases are prevented each year.



Owners and potential owners of reptiles, including baby turtles, should be educated about the risk of catching salmonellosis from these animals.



Be alert for all reptiles, including turtles, in petting zoos, parks, child day care centers, friends' homes or locations where children may be. Reptiles should not be kept in child day care centers, or locations where children may be.



If you come in contact with or handle reptiles or their housing, be sure to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water. If soap and water is not available, use alcohol hand sanitizer.



Persons at increased risk for infection, such as children less than 5 years old and persons with weakened immune systems, should avoid both direct and indirect (through others) contact with all reptiles.



Before bringing home a new child, find a new home for pet reptiles and thoroughly clean the home. Salmonella germs can survive on dry surfaces, such as carpets and towels, for weeks.

