

## Do you know about The Risks of Reptile-Associated Salmonellosis?

Chances are, if you purchased your pet reptile\* from a pet store, you were told about the risks of reptile-associated salmonellosis, a germ (*Salmonella*) that harms humans but not their carriers—pet reptiles. If you bought your pet from a street vendor or at a swap meet, especially a baby turtle, please read this carefully. THIS INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT.



### Baby turtles—all reptiles—shed *Salmonella*; *Salmonella* can be deadly.

- *Salmonella*, the germ that causes the human disease, salmonellosis, can survive on unwashed, dry surfaces for *weeks*—floors, blankets, towels.
- Symptoms of salmonellosis include nausea, stomach cramps, diarrhea, fever, and headache, which usually last for 2 to 7 days. It can be deadly.
- Contact with baby turtles and all other reptiles can be a very serious health risk to infants, small children, and adults with weakened immune systems.



### Baby turtles are hatchlings —not toys.

- The cute plastic bowl with its green palm tree is like a infant carrier or car seat to a baby turtle—not a home environment.
- Healthy baby turtles need 10-gallon tank with a heat lamp, water heater, a resting spot, a good filter, and turtle food specific to its breed.
- Your cute baby turtle will grow into a large adult turtle (about the size of a large dinner plate) that needs a 100-gallon tank, complete with heat lamp, etc.



### Red-eared slider turtles, *the* most popular reptile pet in Los Angeles County, cause environmental damage—here and around the world.

- Turtle farms in the United States have used so much antibiotics in raising red-eared slider turtles that we now have even *more* antibiotic-resistant strains of the germ, *Salmonella*, and the disease it causes, salmonellosis.
- Red-eared slider baby turtles become aggressive adults which multiply rapidly in city park ponds, streams and rivers, and other water ways.
- With no known natural “enemies” they replace native turtles, and other local wildlife, and cause serious environmental harm.

*Special Thanks!* to our Partners in Public Health at Austins Turtle Page (ATP) for allowing us to reproduce selected photographs and information from their web pages at [www.austinsturtlepage.com/](http://www.austinsturtlepage.com/).



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