



What Is Salmonella?

- 🐾 *Salmonella* is a type of bacteria that lives in the intestines of people, dogs, cats and many other animals, even little pets like rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs and birds.
- 🐾 *Salmonella* can give people and animals diarrhea. Sometimes babies, very young kids and people who are already sick from something else can get very, very sick from *Salmonella*. If this happens they may have to go to the hospital.
- 🐾 Reptiles like turtles, snakes and lizards almost always have *Salmonella* on them, so **never** hold these animals near your face, and **always** wash your hands really well after touching one.
- 🐾 Sometimes a person or an animal may have *Salmonella* without knowing it, and without getting sick at all.



Where Does Salmonella Come From?

- ✔ *Salmonella* comes from poop of people & pets who already have *Salmonella* in their intestine.
- ✔ *Salmonella* can survive for a long time in poop, even if there is only a tiny amount. So you can find *Salmonella* anywhere an animal pooped, including water and dirt you find outside.

How Do People & Pets Get Salmonella?

- 🐾 People usually get *Salmonella* because a tiny amount of poop gets on their food or in their drink, or they touch something that has a very tiny amount of poop on it, and then they touch their nose, their mouth or their food and swallow the *Salmonella*.
- 🐾 Pets can get *Salmonella* from eating or licking something that has poop on it, or from eating meat that has not been cooked well.



How Do I Know If My Pet Has Salmonella?

- ✔ Most pets don't get sick from *Salmonella*. If they do get sick they get diarrhea, just like people.
- ✔ If your pet has diarrhea (really soft, runny poop), your pet might need to go to the vet.
- ✔ Your vet can test your pet's poop to see if there is *Salmonella* in it.
- ✔ Your vet will also check your pet to make sure there isn't anything else making him or her sick. Your pet might need some medicine if he or she has *Salmonella*.

Can I Get Salmonella From My Pet?

Probably. *Salmonella* bacteria can sometimes be in poop from pets, and from people, even if they don't look sick. But if some gets in your mouth, the *Salmonella* might be able to make you sick. To make sure you don't get sick, this is what you should do:

- 👉 Always wash your hands well after you play with your pet.
- ✗ Don't touch anyone's face (including yours!) or touch any food until you've washed your hands.
- ✗ Don't touch your pet's bum, even if it looks clean.
- ✗ Don't let your pet lick your face.
- ✗ If you have a dog, don't let him eat poop off the ground or drink from the toilet.

