



Healthy Handling: Aquariums

Although rare, aquatic life may transmit disease agents, such as *Atypical Mycobacterium* or *Salmonella*, to humans. Fortunately, taking a few simple precautions will help protect you from getting sick from your aquatic pets. Make sure that everyone handling aquatic life, including children, follows these precautions:

- Always wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling aquatic life or material that had contact with aquatic life.
- Skin wounds should always be covered.
- Never use food-preparation areas to clean aquatic life habitats or anything in their habitats. If you clean the habitat in the bathroom, disinfect the area completely afterwards.



Healthy Handling: Amphibians

Amphibians may have bacteria, such as *Salmonella*, that can cause disease in humans. Fortunately, taking a few simple precautions will help keep you healthy when handling amphibians. Make sure that everyone handling amphibians, including children, follows these precautions:

- Always wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling amphibians or material that had contact with amphibians.
- Never use food-preparation areas to clean amphibian habitats or anything in their habitats. If you clean the habitat in the bathroom, disinfect the area completely afterwards.

Children under 5, pregnant women, senior citizens, and people with weakened immune systems run a greater risk of infection; contact your health care provider for more information.



Healthy Handling: Reptiles

Reptiles may have bacteria, such as *Salmonella*, that can cause disease in humans. Fortunately, taking a few simple precautions will help keep you healthy when handling reptiles:

- Always wash your hands with soap and water before and after handling reptiles or anything in their habitat.
- Avoid close facial contact with all reptiles.
- Never use food-preparation areas to clean reptile habitats or anything in their habitats. If you clean the habitat in the bathroom, disinfect the area completely afterwards.

Children under 5, pregnant women, senior citizens, and people with weakened immune systems run a greater risk of infection; contact your health care provider for more information.



Healthy Handling: Birds

Although rare, birds can transmit bacteria, such as *Chlamydophila psittaci*, which may infect humans. Signs of *C. psittaci* infection in birds include: watery eyes & nostrils, listlessness, weakness and bright green droppings. If your bird exhibits any of these symptoms, take it to a veterinarian for evaluation.

Make sure that everyone handling birds, including children, follows these precautions:

- Always wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling birds.
- Never use food-preparation areas to clean bird habitats or anything in their habitats. If you clean the habitat in the bathroom, disinfect the area completely afterwards.
- Clean the habitat, food and water bowls in a well-ventilated area.



Healthy Handling: Small Animals

Although rare, small animals can transmit bacteria, such as *Salmonella* and *Streptobacillus moniliformis* (Rat Bite Fever), which may infect humans. The simple precautions below can help prevent the risk of infection.

- Closely supervise children and make sure they wash their hands with soap and water after handling small animals, their habitats or anything in their habitats.
- As cute and cuddly as they are, do not kiss small animals. Illnesses are sometimes spread this way.
- Never use food-preparation areas to clean small animal habitats or anything in their habitats. If you clean the habitat in the bathroom, disinfect the area completely afterwards.
- Clean the habitat, food and water bowls in a well-ventilated area.

Children under 5, pregnant women, senior citizens, and people with weakened immune systems run a greater risk of infection; contact your health care provider for more information.