



PetSmart, Inc.
Salmonella Handout
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Salmonella Q & A

What is Salmonella and how is it spread?

- Salmonella is a bacteria found in raw meats, poultry and eggs. It also can be found in some reptiles, small pets and animal feces. It's spread by contact between one of these sources and another product or human.
- Salmonella is one of the primary reasons for strict food handling guidelines and for recommending thorough hand washing after handling raw foods, reptiles and other pets.
- The most common source of salmonella is raw chicken, meat or eggs. Just as people must take care to wash their hands after handling raw chicken, we recommend the same for any person handling a pet or pet habitat.
- Animals can carry salmonella and pass it in their feces (stool). Therefore, people can also get salmonella if they don't thoroughly wash their hands after handling a pet or cleaning its cage or bedding. Reptiles (lizards, snakes, and turtles), baby chicks, and ducklings are especially likely to pass salmonella to people. Dogs, cats, birds (including pet birds), rodents, horses, and farm animals also can pass salmonella in their feces.

What are the risks?

- In normal, healthy people and pets, salmonella infection can cause flu-like symptoms, such as nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and diarrhea. However, in elderly people or pets, very young children or pets, pregnant woman and people who have compromised immune systems, salmonella can cause serious complications and even be life threatening.
- Salmonella is much more common in dogs than in cats and often related to a raw food diet.

What are the options for treatment or testing?

- Treatment consists primarily of supportive care: consuming plenty of fluids and a high fiber diet. Antibiotics may be used depending on the severity.
- Many different kinds of illnesses can cause the symptoms of salmonella infections such as diarrhea, fever, or abdominal cramps. Determining that salmonella is the cause of the illness depends on laboratory tests that identify it in the stool of an infected person or pet.

- **For more information, please contact your doctor, visit CDC website at www.cdc.gov or FDA website at www.fda.gov.**

How can I protect myself? How can I prevent infection?

- Good hygiene practices are generally all that are required to prevent the risk of contracting bacterial infections, such as salmonella. More specifically:
 - After contact with animal feces (stool), always wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm running water.
 - Always wash your hands with soap and warm running water after touching pets or any objects and surfaces that a pet has also touched, especially after cleaning a pet's habitat.
 - Children should always be supervised when handling pet rodents, especially since they tend to put their fingers in their mouths.
 - Avoid bringing pets into the kitchen, or around human food, and avoid cleaning pet supplies or habitats in the kitchen sink.
 - Don't let pet rodents come in contact with wild rodents, their droppings, or living areas like garages and backyards.
 - If you are pregnant or have a compromised immune system, avoid contact with reptiles, baby chicks, and ducklings.
 - As always, PetSmart recommends that small pets only be purchased from reputable retailers or breeders. We discourage buying small pets at swap meets, auctions or other unregulated public venues.

What measures does PetSmart have in place to prevent the spread of salmonella in its stores?

- As part of our preventative health program, we work closely with our vendors and veterinarians to ensure the health and safety of our associates, customers and the pets in our care. The precautions we have in place with our vendors help reduce the risk of disease.
- We conduct rigorous and regular inspections of all suppliers' facilities to ensure safe, sanitary pet housing, and proper pet care and pet handling procedures.
- We require all associates to wash their hands before and after handling all the pets we sell in our stores.
- PetSmart communicates with our associates frequently to ensure they're aware of the latest developments and precautionary measures. Our associates are trained and educated to provide the highest standards of care for all the pets in our stores.

What measures does PetSmart have in place to prevent salmonella in the pet food products it offers?

- PetSmart requires that the food products we offer adhere to governmental and regulatory requirements including those for safety and ingredients, as well as meet our own requirements.
- We use the same standards established for human safety and we continue to receive successful test results on our products.

- We require that our vendor partners also adhere to the safety and quality protocols established by governmental regulatory bodies, such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture for food.
- This includes routine testing of a representative sampling of import and domestic food products from each of our supplier partners.
- We have a technical services group, which is headed by a Ph.D., and includes veterinarians and analysts who manage the quality of our products.
- We also utilize an independent company to conduct a variety of quality assurance tests on representative batches of pet food we offer, including tests for salmonella and E. coli.