REPTILE-ASSOCIATED SALMONELLOSIS

Turtles and other reptiles such as tortoises, lizards and snakes are carriers of a germ called Salmonella, which can make children very sick, causing fever, chills, diarrhea, nausea and sometimes vomiting.

The following story is based on real events.

Developed by Maren Robinson, Karanjit Chela, Priti Gutam and Vanessa Navoa, in conjunction with

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Public Health
School of Public Health

Reptile-associated Salmonellosis Working Group

Health Services
Los Angeles County Office of Environmental and Cultural Competence
玄東尼看這小海龜，想不想帶一隻回家？

早晨，你喜不喜歡買一隻小海龜？來看看！

他們是你小孩的最佳寵物，且便宜。

看！看！看！我看！我有新寵物叫亨利！

謝謝！

這是你的小海龜，祝你有愉快的一天。

亨利，我等不及跟她玩了！

玄東尼：你喜歡小海龜嗎？你給牠起什麼名字？

玄東尼：可以玩嗎？

這個小海龜真好玩，不知今晚媽媽能否讓我與她在浴缸游泳？
第二天的晚上...

妈咪，我很舒服。

宝贝！有什么不对？

哎哟！哎哟！

医生！我很紧张，我的儿子发烧，还有肚子痛，发高烧。他有什么不对？

嗯！你发高烧！带我去看医生。

唯一我想到的就是小海龟，是我昨天在跳蚤市场买的。可能是这个吗？

拜啦！又要请假！我怎么安排？

妈咪！我从来没有小海龟，而且它很危险！还是去公司请假吧！

忍耐吧！我们到了！

他有没有接触新的东西，例如食物或宠物？
在診所中...3

你比溫和，我很關心我的
兒子健康很多。今次上了重
要一談。你很健康，而你
的小
孩已和成。你可喜歡收養我
們的小烏龜？醫生說它是帶
菌者，危険五歲以下的兒童，
家中有幼童不應有小烏龜。

三周後覆診...

你好，愛碧碧，我很關心我的
兒子健康很多。今次上了重
要一談。你很健康，而你
的小
孩已和成。你可喜歡收養我
們的小烏龜？醫生說它是帶
菌者，危険五歲以下的兒童，
家中有幼童不應有小烏龜。

好，沒問題。我知道一
位專門收養動物的醫
生。他可以教我最好的
方法照顧它。

結局
TURTLE SAFETY TIPS

Turtles are not safe pets for young children. They should not be kept in the home, at childcare centers, preschools, or in early childhood education programs.

Do not buy a turtle (less than 4 inches in width), especially if you are pregnant, if you have children under the age of 5, or if you have any chronic health problems. Salmonella germs can survive for weeks on surfaces and objects (such as clothing, carpets, and toys).

If you already have a turtle, follow the tips below for child and turtle safety:

- Wash your hands after each time you touch, hold or clean your pet, its cage or food.
- Keep your turtle’s living area clean.
- Do not bathe your turtle in the kitchen sink or next to places where you keep and cook your food.
- Do not allow children under the age of 5 to play with turtles.
- Avoid contaminating the bathtub. Always sanitize the area where you clean the turtle or its equipment.
- Do not put your turtle into a local lake if you no longer want it. Instead, call a turtle organization or the City Animal Control Department.

Find out how to take good care of your pet turtle because a sick turtle sheds more Salmonella and that’s more dangerous! Visit http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/acd/Diseases/Reptiles.htm

For more information about Reptile-Associated Salmonellosis, please contact the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd
Telephone (213) 240-7694 (Ask for the Health Education Unit)