

Reptile Rules

Follow these reptile handling tips to safely enjoy your pets!

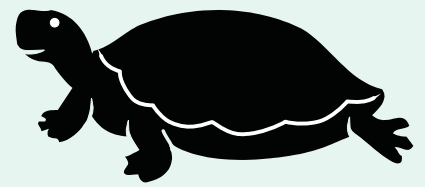


Reptiles carry *Salmonella* bacteria which can make people sick. In Washington state, recent cases of *Salmonella* have been traced to the handling of pet turtles, lizards, and snakes. To reduce your chance of infection and to protect others, follow these tips when handling any reptiles. Be safe. Play by the rules!

Wash your hands thoroughly after you handle your pet reptile, its food or anything it has touched.

Keep reptiles out of homes and child care settings with children under 5 or people with weakened immune systems.

Enjoy your pet reptile, but don't nuzzle or kiss it.



Cage your pet reptile in a habitat designed for it; don't let it roam around your home.

Keep your pet reptile and its equipment out of the kitchen or any area where food is prepared.

Questions?

Contact your local health department with questions or for more information.