Will I catch salmonella from my pet reptile?

Reptiles · https://shirleyaquatics.co.uk/knowledge/will-i-catch-salmonella-from-my-pet-reptile/

Will I catch salmonella from my pet reptile?

Salmonella is a bacteria found in the digestive tract and faeces of many different animal species including (but NOT limited to) reptiles and amphibians but will I catch salmonella from my pet? Reptiles and amphibians carry a particular strain of salmonella (enteritidis PT8) in their gut which is transmissible to humans. Reptiles and amphibians shed the salmonella bacteria through their faeces, contact with this source of bacteria can cause problems if ingested. Good hygiene practices after handling your pet, in particular not touching your face, making sure to thoroughly wash your hands, and a clean and faeces free enclosure will help prevent salmonella contamination. The animals' water source will also hold a concentration of bacteria, and every effort should be made to avoid getting the water in your mouth or on your face.

Will I catch salmonella from my pet reptile? The short answer is no.
Yes, Reptiles and amphibians can pass on salmonella, but you have a greater risk of catching salmonella from the family cat or dog. These animals, as they use their tongues to groom themselves and then lick hands or faces, carry a significantly higher risk of salmonella infection than any reptile or amphibian. With good hygiene practices and clean animal enclosures, there is very little risk of falling ill.

Health and safety warning!!
Please do not lick your pet reptile or amphibian! We understand that it is tempting but we cannot, in good conscience, recommend such practices. Be safe, don't lick that reptile!

If you would like more advice on what products to use when cleaning your reptile's enclosure, please contact us and a member of our friendly reptile team will be more than happy to answer all of your questions.

Why not check out our YouTube channel for some cool videos on our reptiles and helpful tips on husbandry!