



# Salmonella

## **What is *Salmonella*?**

*Salmonella* is a bacteria found mainly in the intestinal tract. Although there are many different strains of *Salmonella*, with respects to avian species in the state of Idaho, the strain most commonly discussed is *Salmonella* pullorum-typhoid. *Salmonella* is also carried by most reptiles.

## **How is *Salmonella* transmitted?**

Transmission occurs when the bacteria is ingested after contact with infected animals. This can be contact with infected reptiles, birds or eggs, and hens can pass some types of *Salmonella* to their chicks through the egg. Other ways *Salmonella* can spread is through feces-contaminated feed, water, litter, clothing, and other equipment used around animals.

## **What are the symptoms of *Salmonella* infection?**

Although not all infected animals will appear sick, common symptoms include diarrhea, lethargy, ruffled feathers (in birds), and weight loss.

## **Can *Salmonella* infect humans?**

Animal to human transmission can occur through contact with infected birds or eggs. Often this can be a result of handling turtles, baby chicks or adult birds in places such as stores and fairs or even your own home. Because not all infected animals are symptomatic, it may be best to avoid contact with animals of unknown origin. Be sure to follow thorough hand-washing procedures after any contact with birds or reptiles.

## **What are the testing requirements for *Salmonella*?**

Producers wishing to participate in the [National Poultry Improvement Plan](#) (NPIP) must have regular *Salmonella* pullorum-typhoid testing. Additionally, [avians imported into Idaho](#) that do not originate from an NPIP flock must have been tested within 30 days before entering Idaho.

## **What can I do to prevent *Salmonella* in my flock?**

Participation in NPIP, as well as following good [biosecurity](#) practices, can help you identify and eliminate infection in your flock.

## **What can I do to prevent *Salmonella* in my pet and my family?**

Observe the ban in place by the [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) regarding the sale of small turtles – those with shells smaller than 4 inches. Even for small animal owners, good [biosecurity](#) practices can help you prevent infection. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) also has good information regarding reptile and amphibian pets and *Salmonella*.

*Salmonella* is a [notifiable disease](#) in Idaho.

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