

In response to the recent release of information from the Centers for Disease Control concerning dwarf aquarium frogs and possible exposure to *Salmonella*, Carolina Biological Supply Company is providing for your information a more comprehensive list of precautions you may take to help prevent the transmission of *Salmonella*, or other transmittable substances that could be harmful to you or your students. Carolina Biological would like to stress to all our customers the need for practicing good hygiene methods while working with all reptiles and amphibians. Carolina has always advocated the use of good hygiene practices, such as thorough hand washing, both before and after handling live materials.

Amphibians, Reptiles and Prevention of *Salmonella* Transmission

Many educators are aware turtles and other reptiles can carry *Salmonella* bacteria, but they may not realize that amphibians (including dwarf aquarium frogs) can carry it, too. This does not mean that educators should stop using amphibian and reptiles in their classrooms. Following simple, commonsense hygiene measures can protect you and your students from the risk of amphibian- or reptile-associated *Salmonella* infection:

- Never put amphibians or reptiles, or anything they have been in contact with, in your mouth.
- Always wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after touching or handling any amphibian or reptile, its housing, or anything (including food) that has come in contact with a reptile or amphibian or its feces.
- Adults should closely supervise children when they handle amphibians or reptiles, and should assist young children with hand washing.
- Children less than 5 years old should not be allowed to come into contact with amphibians or reptiles without close supervision.
- Amphibians and reptiles should not be kept in child-care centers.
- Do not allow amphibians or reptiles to roam freely throughout your classroom.
- It is especially important to keep reptiles and amphibians out of food and drink preparation areas or where food may be consumed.
- Do not bathe reptiles or amphibians in your classroom sink or near any areas used for food or drink preparation or consumption. Any container used for this purpose should be thoroughly cleaned and bleached afterward to kill any bacteria that may remain on the surface.
- When cleaning the reptile's or amphibian's habitat:
 - Children less than 5 years old should not be allowed to clean the reptile's or amphibian's habitat.
 - Wear gloves.
 - Have a clean back-up cage available and transfer the animal into this cage while cleaning and disinfecting its habitat.
 - Have a cleaning kit (brushes, sponges, towels, soap, etc.) that is not used for any other purpose than cleaning your animal's habitat.
 - Do not clean the habitat in or near any areas used for food or drink preparation or consumption. If possible, clean the habitat outside of the classroom and in an area that is not frequently accessed by children.
 - After cleaning the habitat, remove and discard the gloves and thoroughly wash your hands. If your face or other areas of your skin were splashed or otherwise contaminated, wash the areas thoroughly with soap and water. If your clothes are soiled, wash them in hot water separately from other clothing.
- If you or any of your students develop diarrhea, stomach cramps, fever or other signs of illness after contact with amphibians or reptiles, contact a physician. Make sure you inform your physician of your contact with a reptile or amphibian.

Based on information provided by the American Veterinary Medicine Association