

Questions:

Can my pet become infected with Salmonella?

Yes, many types of animals can become infected with Salmonella, including pets, livestock, rodent, reptiles and many others. When infected, some animals may become quite ill with fever, vomiting, diarrhea and dehydration. Some animals, however, may not show any signs of illness when exposed to Salmonella or may show very mild signs.

Can my pets drink the contaminated tap water?

No, please give your pets bottled water or water that has been boiled.

What should I do if my pet shows signs of vomiting, diarrhea or fever?

If your pet shows signs of illness, including fever, loss of energy, vomiting or diarrhea, they should be examined as soon as possible by your veterinarian. Salmonella is a serious disease in pets, but is typically very treatable by your veterinarian.

What should I do if I have fish in an aquarium?

Changing the water in fish tanks should be delayed, if possible, until normal water service is established. If this cannot be delayed, bottled or bulk fresh water should be used for the aquarium. Even drinking water with normal amounts of chlorine should be allowed to set an open container for 48 hours prior to using it in an aquarium. This allows the chlorine to evaporate from the water. Chlorine in aquariums could be toxic to fish and may create problems with the normal micro-organisms necessary for a health aquarium ecosystem.

What precautions should I take after handling animals or cleaning up after animals?

After handling or cleaning up after animals you should wash your hands thoroughly. If working in livestock areas, remove contaminated boots and coveralls before entering your home. Don't eat food in livestock areas.

Can livestock get Salmonella?

Yes, livestock may become infected and may occasionally become ill (particularly horses), showing fever, diarrhea and dehydration. Some livestock, however, may show mild or minimal signs and can appear normal while shedding Salmonella in the manure. Good hand washing practices and not wearing contaminated boots and clothes into your home will help reduce the chances of exposure to Salmonella from livestock.

Are children, elderly people or those with impaired immune systems at higher risk?

Yes, these groups are at higher risk of Salmonella from any source, including animals. Families should actively teach their children good hand washing practices.

Where can I find more information on Salmonella in animals?

For more information on Salmonella in animals, visit:

http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/FastFacts/pdfs/nontyphoidal_salmonellosis_F.PDF