



State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals
Center for Community Health

INFORMATION FOR PERSONS PURCHASING AND/OR CARING FOR TURTLES OR TORTOISES

Turtles and tortoises have been implicated in the transmission of diseases caused by bacteria such as *Salmonella* organisms. Pet shops should encourage persons that purchase such pets to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Persons that care for or maintain turtles or tortoises should wash their hands thoroughly, immediately after contact with the animals or after handling material that had contact with the animals.
- Water or other substances that come in contact with turtles or tortoises should never be permitted to come in contact with food and should never be allowed to enter or otherwise contaminate food preparation areas.
- Adult caretakers should ensure that children and others handling turtles or tortoises follow the above guidelines.

The above information was provided by the State Public Health Veterinarian.
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