

Four Corners Veterinary Hospital Reptile History Form

Owner's Name: _____ Animal's Name _____ Date: _____

1. Patient information

Species: _____ Gender: male female unknown
Date of birth/hatch (or estimated age): _____ Date acquired (or how long owned): _____
How big was the reptile when you first acquired it? _____ Is he/she captive bred or wild caught?
Source pet store breeder previous owner show found other: _____
Is there a microchip in this pet? yes no

2. Environment

Is your reptile kept indoors outdoors both
Enclosure
Type: wood/glass glass tank plastic container mesh/wire cage yard pond Other
How large is the enclosure? _____
What is on the bottom of the enclosure? _____
What types of hiding places are provided? _____
List species of live plants: _____
Is there a soaking/swimming tub? yes no.
Please describe other furnishings: _____
How often is the cage cleaned, list cleaning products used _____
Answer these questions if your reptile is aquatic:
How often is the water changed? _____ What type of filter is used? _____
Do you use a dechlorinator or any other type of water treatment? _____
Lighting
Does your reptile receive sunlight? yes no. Estimated hours per week _____
Does the sunlight pass through glass or plastic before reaching the reptile? yes no
Artificial lighting: incandescent/screw-in bulbs: wattage(s) _____ hours per day _____
fluorescent/tube bulbs: Brand _____ hours/day _____
How often are the fluorescent bulbs changed? _____
Temperature
Do you have a thermometer(s) in the cage? yes no
What is the day temperature in the warmest part of the cage? _____ In the coolest part? _____
What is the night temperature in the warmest part of the cage? _____ In the coolest part? _____
What device(s) are used for heating? hot rock heat pad heat light ceramic heater
aquarium heater other: _____ Is there a thermostat? yes, no
Humidity
Is the cage misted? yes no. How often? _____
Is the humidity measured? yes no. Range: _____
Do you soak your reptile outside the cage? yes no. Where and how often? _____
How much time does your reptile spend outside of the enclosure? _____
Is your reptile supervised when it is out? always sometimes no
Is supplemental heating provided outside the cage? yes no. Type _____
Have you ever noticed your reptile eat any household objects? _____
Is the reptile ever taken outdoors? yes no Describe _____
Does your reptile hibernate? yes no. If yes: which months? _____ where? _____
Temperature range _____ How often do you check on him/her? _____
Do you have other pets? yes no. If yes: other animals in the same cage: _____
New reptiles within the past 6 months – species, date, source: _____
List any other pets you have: _____ Are any of your other pets ill? yes no
List any recent changes in the environment: _____

→ → → PLEASE COMPLETE THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS FORM → → →

3. Diet

What percent of the diet consists of the following (please list what the animal actually eats) Total should = 100%

____% Vegetables: _____

____% Fruits: _____

____% Insects, mealworms, etc: _____

Are they gut loaded or dusted before feeding? Describe: _____

____% Rodents, chicks, etc, list types & source: _____

Are they fed live killed both?

____% Pellets, commercial diet or canned food. List brands/types: _____

____% Grazing in yard _____

____% Other, describe: _____

Please list any supplements used. How are they given and how often? _____

How often do you feed your reptile? _____

Does your reptile eat anything other than its intended diet (e.g. the cat's food, houseplants)? _____

How is water offered? dish misting drip system other _____

Please list any recent additions/changes in the diet: _____

4. When was the last shed? _____ Was it one piece patchy incomplete?

5. Reproductive Do you plan on breeding this animal? yes no possibly

How many clutches/litters has this reptile produced? _____ How many live offspring? _____

When was the most recent clutch/litter? _____ How many eggs/babies were laid? _____

Has your reptile ever had difficulty laying? yes no If yes, describe _____

6. Has your reptile ever been tested or treated for internal or external parasites? yes no not sure

Please list dates and medications used: _____

7. Previous conditions, problems, surgeries (list with date, if known) _____

8. Is your reptile here for a well pet check-up or is it sick?

If your reptile is sick, please describe the signs and how long your reptile has been showing these signs:

Is your reptile's general activity level normal decreased increased?

Is your reptile's appetite normal decreased increased?

Have you noticed any of the following? Weight loss Weight gain

Discharge from the eyes or nose Increased breathing rate or effort

A change in the droppings Abnormal skin color or shedding

Skin/fecal parasites Weakness

Have you used any medications? _____

9. Has your reptile been seen by another veterinarian? yes no If yes:

When was the most recent visit? _____ May we contact this hospital for medical records? yes no

10. Is there anything else you would like done today?

Nail trim sexing I have questions about: _____

Other: _____

*****Did you know that most reptiles carry Salmonella that can infect humans?*****

Please read and keep the attached handout on Salmonella.

Please initial here that you have received this handout _____

Four Corners veterinary Hospital Salmonella in Reptiles

What are Salmonella and salmonellosis?

Salmonella is a bacterium. Salmonella bacteria exist in healthy reptiles and cause disease in humans. Salmonella is normally found in the feces and intestines of reptiles; Salmonella can also be found in the mouth, infected wounds, abscesses, or even on normal skin. Salmonellosis is any disease that is caused by Salmonella.

Does my reptile have Salmonella?

Most, if not all, reptiles have Salmonella in their intestines and pass the bacteria in their feces. In most cases, Salmonella does not cause any signs of disease in the reptile. **WHETHER YOU HAVE A LIZARD, TURTLE, TORTOISE, OR SNAKE, YOU MUST ASSUME THAT YOUR REPTILE HAS SALMONELLA.**

Can people get Salmonella from pet reptiles?

YES. The United States Center for Disease Control (CDC) has documented hundreds of thousands of cases of human salmonellosis that were proven to come from pet reptiles.

What can Salmonella do to humans?

A mild infection with Salmonella may go unnoticed. Mild to moderate cases are generally associated with diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, cramping, and fever. In some people, Salmonella can enter the blood or the brain, leading to prolonged hospitalization and even death. Anyone can contract salmonellosis from a pet reptile.

Which People are most at Risk?

People who are less than 5 years old or immunosuppressed (such as persons with HIV or on chemotherapy) are most at risk of getting sick from Salmonella. Most importantly, people in these high-risk groups have increased risk of contracting a fatal or life-threatening case.

The CDC, Association of Reptile & Amphibian Veterinarians, and the doctors at Four Corners Veterinary Hospital advise against any household with a high-risk individual keeping any type of reptile as a pet.

People who are taking antibiotics also have a higher risk of contracting salmonellosis. If you have questions regarding you or your family's susceptibility to salmonellosis, please consult your physician.

How do people get Salmonella from pet reptiles?

In most cases, humans become infected by ingesting Salmonella that was shed in the reptile's feces. If you think this is unlikely, consider the fact that reptiles can shed millions of Salmonella bacteria in every gram of feces. Reptiles frequently walk in their feces, effectively spreading the Salmonella over the surface of their skin and cage. If the animal is handled, the handler is likely to get Salmonella on their hands. If the animal is allowed out of its cage, anyone who touches the floor where the animal has walked may pick up Salmonella. Once Salmonella is on the hands, it's a simple matter for a person to become infected by eating, smoking, or touching their mouth. Toddlers, who are at high risk for fatal infection, crawl on the floor and frequently put their hands in their mouths. Humans can also contract salmonellosis by washing cages or bowls in areas where human food is prepared or consumed, or allowing the reptile to enter these areas.

There are many cases of children becoming fatally infected from pet reptiles, despite the fact that the children had no direct contact with the animal; this emphasizes how easy is for reptiles to contaminate a home environment.

How can I minimize the chances of people contracting Salmonella from my reptile?

If you choose to own a reptile, there are several precautions that should be followed:

- Assume that every reptile has Salmonella on its skin and in its feces.
- Always wash your hands after handling a reptile or anything in the reptile's cage.
- Keep the cage clean. Avoid lining the cage with material such as sand or bark that is too difficult or expensive to change frequently.
- Do not allow your reptile, its cage, or its cage furnishings to contact an area that is used to prepare or consume human food.
- Do not kiss your reptile or put anything in your mouth while handling a reptile.
- Reptiles should not be kept in home with a person who is less than 5 years of age or immunocompromised.

- Immunocompromised people and children under 5 years should not contact reptiles or areas where a reptile has been.

Should I have my reptile tested for Salmonella?

Although feces can be tested for Salmonella, this test is not recommended in routine cases. Many reptiles pass Salmonella in the feces intermittently. Even though an individual reptile may test negative for Salmonella on one or more fecal tests, that same animal may pass Salmonella in the home at a later date. A negative culture may therefore give an owner the false impression that their animal does not have Salmonella. Whether you have a lizard, turtle, tortoise, or snake, you must assume that your reptile has Salmonella.

Can I medicate my reptile to clear it of Salmonella?

NO. Numerous scientific studies show that Salmonella is one of the normal intestinal bacteria in healthy reptiles. Although a course of antibiotics may temporarily decrease the number of Salmonella present, there is no medication that will eliminate Salmonella from a reptile. Giving antibiotics can cause Salmonella bacteria to become resistant to antibiotics; bacterial resistant strains are especially dangerous if they infect people.

Sources for further information

CDC (Center for Disease Control) <http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/animals/reptiles.htm>

ARAV (Assoc. Reptile & Amphib Vets) <http://www.arav.org/SalmonellaOwner.htm>

Veterinary Partner <http://www.veterinarypartner.com>