



Pennyroyal

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## PREVENTION OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES FROM REPTILES

Reptiles may carry many bacterial, fungal, protozoal, or parasitic organisms that can potentially cause disease in people. Children, elderly, and immunosuppressed individuals, such as patients on chemotherapy or those with AIDS are most at risk.

To protect yourself and your family, please observe the following guidelines:

### DO'S

Do wash your hands with hot, soapy water after handling any reptile, care or cage accessories. This includes water dishes, food trays, and substrates.

Do wear gloves and face protection while cleaning the reptile cage or during changing of the reptile's water tub, pond, or soaking pool.

Do disinfect reptile caging and cage accessories frequently.

Do supervise children handling reptiles. Minimize their contact with reptiles.

Do house reptiles away from the kitchen, dining room, eating, or food preparation areas.

Do keep other pets away from the reptile, its caging, and its water tub, pond, or pool.

Do have your reptile examined by a veterinarian frequently and have laboratory testing done to screen for potentially harmful disease organisms.

### DON'TS

Do NOT use your bathtub, sink, or shower as a tub, pond, or soaking pool for your reptile.

Do not kiss your reptile.

Do not eat, drink, or smoke while handling your reptile or while cleaning its housing or water tub/pond/pool.

Do not clean the cage or dump the water in an area where food is prepared, where dishes are washed (the kitchen sink), or where faces are washed and teeth are brushed.

Do not ignore bites or scratches received from your pet; wash them with plenty of hot, soapy water, stop bleeding, consult your physician. Reptile-induced wounds can become infected easily.

Do not keep venomous reptiles as pets.

Disinfectant products suggested to clean your reptile's housing and accessories:

One-Stroke Environ (Ceva, Overland Park, KS)

Roccal-D (Winthrop, New York, NY)

Syn-Phenol-3 (Veterinary Products Lab)

Nelvasan (Fort Dodge Laboratories, Ft. Dodge, IA)

10% Chlorine Bleach solution

Avinol (Veterinary Products Laboratories, Phoenix, AZ)

(Adapted from Dr. Douglas Mader's book. Reptile Medicine and Surgery, W.B. Saunders Company 1996).

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