



St. Charles County Department of Community Health and the Environment Health E-News

*Celebrate National Public Health Week
April 4-10!*

APRIL 2005

1650 BOONE'S LICK ROAD, ST. CHARLES, MO 63301
COMHEALTH@SAINTCHARLESCOUNTY.ORG

PHONE 636-949-7400
WWW.SCCHEALTH.ORG

Helpful Phone Numbers

Division of Public Health
636-949-7400

Health Education
636-949-7401

Vital Records
636-949-7558

STD Prevention/Treatment
636-949-7401

Environmental Health
636-949-7404

WIC
(Women Infants Children)
636-949-7402

Division of Emergency
Management
636-949-3023

Division of Environmental
Services
Recycling Services
636-949-7415

Division of Humane
Services
636-949-7387 (PETS)

Animal Control
636-949-7347



Popular Pet Reptiles Can Carry Diseases Important tips to keep yourself and your family healthy

An estimated 3% of households in the United States own at least one reptile. Reptiles, including turtles, lizards, and snakes, can carry germs that make people sick. Of greatest importance is salmonellosis. An estimated 70,000 people get salmonellosis from contact with reptiles in the United States each year.

Salmonellosis (sal-mohn-el-OH-sis) is a bacterial disease caused by the bacterium *Salmonella*. Many different kinds of *Salmonella* can make people sick. Most people have diarrhea, fever, and stomach pain that start 1 to 3 days after they get infected. These symptoms usually go away after 1 week. Sometimes, people have to see a doctor or go to the hospital because the diarrhea is severe or the infection has affected other organs.

- Reptiles and amphibians should be kept out of households that include children less than 5 years old and people with weakened immune systems. A family expecting a child should remove any pet reptile or amphibian from the home before the infant arrives.
- Reptiles and amphibians should not be allowed in child care centers.
- Always wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling reptiles and amphibians and their cages.
- Reptiles and amphibians should never be allowed to roam freely throughout a home or living area.

During the 1970s, millions of tiny baby turtles were sold throughout the United States as pets. By the mid-70s, a quarter of a million children and infants were diagnosed as having turtle-associated Salmonella. In 1975, the Food & Drug Administration, in an effort to stop the problem, prohibited the sale of any turtles under four inches in length.

Reptiles, like turtles and iguanas, can be purchased at pet stores, as well as from the black market, private reptile breeders and swap meets. Many reptile sellers do not post warnings about the dangers of Salmonella even though state and federal laws require it.

- Kitchen sinks should not be used to bathe reptiles and amphibians or to wash their dishes or cages. If bathtubs are used for these purposes, they should always be cleaned thoroughly and disinfected with bleach.
- Avoid direct contact with reptiles and amphibians in public settings, such as exhibits and petting zoos, except in designated animal contact areas equipped with adequate hand-washing facilities.

Learn more about salmonellosis at [CDC's Salmonellosis Website](http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella) which includes answers to frequently asked questions and additional resources.

Surfing the web?

We're on the Web!
www.scchealth.org

Check out these websites for more info on public health!

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov

MO Association of Local Public Health Agencies
www.moalpha.org

American Public Health Association
www.apha.org

St. Charles County Department of Community Health & the Environment

1650 Boone's Lick Road
St. Charles, MO 63301
Phone: 636-949-7400
Fax: 636-949-7403
E-mail
comhealth@saintcharlescounty.org

Gil Copley, Director
636-949-7477

Julie Burkemper,
Health E-News Editor &
Public Information Officer
636-949-7408

Subscribe/unsubscribe to Health E-News

Health E-News is a service of St. Charles County Dept. of Community Health and the Environment and contains information regarding public health. To subscribe or unsubscribe to this service, send an e-mail message to burkej1@pha.health.state.mo.us with "subscribe" or "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Receiving duplicate newsletters? [Let us know.](#)

St Charles County Emergency Management Sponsors Local Community Emergency Response Team Course

CERT Programs Expand Throughout Metro Area



Following a major disaster, emergency managers plan for two things. Demand for emergency services will outpace the ability of responders to provide service on a moment's notice, as we've come to expect. Friends, family, and strangers alike will spontaneously try to help each other.

This natural desire to help has saved hundreds of lives; however it has cost lives, too. That's where the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program comes in. CERT began with the Los Angeles Fire Department. Since 1994, the CERT concept has been adopted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for use nationwide.

CERT does not train people to be emergency responders; it trains people to help themselves and each other until professional emergency responders arrive. The program combines teaching lifesaving skills with knowing and respecting personal safety limitations. CERT also stresses individual and family preparation before an emergency.

Classroom and hands-on activities are conducted in six 2-and-a-half- hour blocks, and one 8- hour block which includes a course review and final group exercise. The course covers topics from how to organize and work as a team, to how to properly operate a fire extinguisher. CERT topics include:

- Disaster Psychology
- Light Search and Rescue
- Disaster Medical
- Disaster Preparation
- Team Organization
- Fire Safety



Registration is open and class size is limited CALL TODAY!

When:
6:30 pm-10:00 pm - April 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, and 29
8:00 am - 5:00 pm on April 30

Where:
St Charles County Justice Center
301 North Second Street,
St Charles, MO. 63301

Cost:
\$25.00

For more information contact:
St Charles County Division of Emergency Management
636-949-3023

Pet Adoption Center Receives Safe Steps Home Grant



The St. Charles County Pet Adoption Center is proud to have been selected as one of only 10 humane organizations nationwide to receive a \$15,000 grant from the ASPCA/Fresh Step Litter Safe Steps Home program. Safe Steps Home was created by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the makers of Fresh Steps cat litter to improve the lives of unwanted and homeless cats. Financial support is provided to organizations that help cats in need through innovation, education and prevention.

The grant money is being used to purchase surgery packs and additional cat traps to support the Sterile Feral program. The program provides low-cost spay and neuter services for feral and barn cats in St. Charles County. The program has successfully assisted more than 400 feral cats over the last two years. For details on the program, call 636-949-PETS, visit the Pet Adoption Center at 4850 Mid Rivers Mall Drive or visit online at www.scchealth.org.



Household Hazardous Waste Collection

By appointment only, St. Charles County residents can bring household chemicals to [Recycle Works](#) for proper disposal. On-going collections began April 1, 2005. Appointment and proof of residency required! Call 636-949-7900 x4271 to schedule an appointment. (Limits may apply.) Visit online at www.scchealth.org for additional information.