

# Salmonellosis

## Occupational Bacterial Infection from Handling Psittacine and Passerine Birds

### What is Salmonellosis?

Salmonellosis is a bacterial infection caused by *Salmonella* spp. It is found worldwide. *Salmonella* lives in the intestinal tracts of animals, including birds.

### How does infection occur?

Infection can occur from eating improperly cooked meats, eggs, or unpasteurized dairy products. *Salmonella* are usually transmitted to humans by eating foods contaminated with animal feces. Having direct contact with an infected animal and not washing hands can cause accidental fecal-oral ingestion of the bacteria, resulting in salmonellosis.

### What are the symptoms?

Symptoms of salmonellosis in humans causes diarrhea, fever, inflammation of the intestines, and abdominal pain. Symptoms start within 1 to 3 days after exposure. After symptoms start, they usually last for 4 to 7 days. Most cases do not require treatment, however those who are young, elderly, or immunocompromised may need more care.

### How do I prevent it?

Wearing proper PPE and washing hands thoroughly after handling animals can help prevent any fecal-oral transmission. Fully cooking meats, eggs, and only drinking pasteurized milk can help prevent infection from animal products.

### How is it treated?

Most cases require no treatment, but some cases may need antibiotics and/or supportive therapy.

### Resources used:

- The Center for Food Security and Public Health Zoonotic Disease Factsheets: Salmonellosis
- List of Zoonoses - Special Pet Topics – (2016) *Merck Veterinary Manual* 11<sup>th</sup> ed.
- The Center for Food Security and Public Health Zoonotic Transmission Routes: Salmonellosis