

Salmonellosis from Hedgehogs

Multi-county Outbreak

Clark, King, Pierce, Spokane, Thurston, and Whitman counties were involved in an outbreak of salmonellosis associated with pet hedgehogs. The first reported case was a two year old child hospitalized for five days. From May through December there were seven cases of infection with a specific strain of *Salmonella* Typhimurium identified in Washington State including one death. Nationally there were 20 infections with the outbreak strain in eight states. While some case patients had played with hedgehogs, others had limited contact with the animals and did not own them. Animal and environmental isolates also matched the outbreak strain, and the same strain had been previously isolated in Washington in 2005 from the owner of a pet hedgehog. No single source of hedgehogs was identified; some of the hedgehog breeders were USDA-Animal Care licensed. Previous cases and outbreaks of salmonellosis have been linked to pet hedgehogs, which are often not symptomatic but can shed the organism.

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6204a3.htm?s_cid=mm6204a3_w
1994 case: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00038010.htm>