



## SALMONELLA

Living with COVID-19 has caused us to become hyper-vigilant with regards to limiting our exposure to and spread of that virus. We should be equally vigilant to keep harmful bacteria from spreading also. Some of the same preventative methods for viruses can be employed for bacteria.

Salmonella is one of the most common causes of food poisoning in the United States. Each year, salmonella infections, called salmonellosis, sicken 1.35 million people. Up to 450 die from salmonella poisoning annually.

This common bacterium can live in many animals, such as livestock, pets, reptiles, and sometimes humans. As high as 90 percent of reptiles are natural carriers of Salmonella bacteria-harboring strains that are specific to them and they show no signs of illness. The problem with reptiles and amphibians, when compared to other types of pets that are Salmonella carriers, is that they carry the bacteria with such high frequency. Therefore, it is prudent to assume that all reptiles and amphibians can be a potential source of Salmonella.

The sale or distribution of turtles with a carapace length of fewer than 4 inches has been banned in the U.S. since 1975 (Title 21 CFR 1240.62). The ban was brought into effect under the Public Health Services Act by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to address the problem of Salmonella infections in children. Before the ban, there were an estimated 250,000 cases of Salmonellosis in children and infants that were associated with pet turtles in the U.S. It was determined children with turtles larger

than 4 inches were much less likely to put them in their mouth.

Salmonella can be found in the intestines of other animals, even opossums, but especially pigs and poultry, and it is spread through their feces. For example, if contaminated feces get into the water that is used to irrigate crops, those crops can carry the bacteria to the market. Raw poultry can sometimes be contaminated with the bacteria. It can be spread throughout your kitchen if you don't wash your hands, cutting board, and any knives or other utensils after you handle raw poultry.

Any raw or undercooked animal product can carry salmonella. That includes meat, unpasteurized dairy products like milk and cheese, eggs, and seafood. Fruits, vegetables, and nuts also can become contaminated with salmonella. In recent years, the CDC has reported outbreaks associated with particular brands of alfalfa sprouts, pistachios, nut butters, and cucumbers.

In addition to the common carriers of turtles, frogs, lizards, and other reptiles and amphibians, backyard chickens carry salmonella. Because they spread the bacteria through their feces, you can become infected by handling them or cleaning up after them. Such pets will not show signs that they have the bacteria, so it is best to be cautious and act as if they do. Always thoroughly wash your hands after coming

into contact with or cleaning up after any potential carriers. Don't allow them into your kitchen or any rooms where food is stored, prepared, or served.

### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF SALMONELLA POISONING?

Some people may merely carry the organism in the digestive tract and not be ill, but typically it will cause nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea -- sometimes with fever.

Other symptoms may include headache, abdominal cramps, and loss of appetite. These symptoms usually start within 12 to 72 hours after infection. They last for 4 to 7 days. However, it can take several months for bowel habits to return to normal. In rare cases, salmonella also can cause reactive arthritis, a type of joint pain that can last months or years and eventually may result in chronic arthritis.

### HOW IS SALMONELLA TREATED?

Usually, salmonella poisoning goes away on its own, without treatment. Drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated if you have diarrhea.

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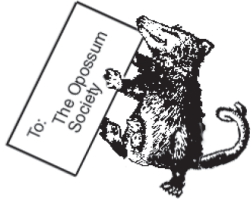
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# Mail Pouch



Note: We print these select Internet questions we receive without grammatical corrections. Grammatical scrutiny is applied to our responses.

**Q:** I have been caring for 3 Opossums since the spring when their mother was hit by a car in front of my house.

They have been doing very, very well and living in my backyard in a shelter I built for them that was recently insulated as winter is fast approaching here in SW Ontario.

I have been feeding them (peters food, fruit and veggies, and a small bit of chicken meat with bones) and keeping a close eye on them.

11 days ago, one of them disappeared. Just vanished. He hasn't been seen since.

Last night, another disappeared. He didn't come home this morning.

I am very worried that something bad may have happened to them.

With winter almost here, is it normal for Opossums to just wander away like this? Should I be worried and send out a search team?

Robert

**A:** Hello Robert,

Reread the sections on our website on How to Attract Opossums to Your Property and Constructing a Backyard Den Box. I'm sure the opossums will

return to take advantage of your hospitality if they feel your structure is secure enough.

They are transient creatures, keeping several different den boxes to alternate sleeping in, in case one gets upset by something. They don't feel comfortable shut up in a cage and needed to identify their alternate den sites before weather made it harder.

Leslie

**Q:** There is an opossum who surveys our yard every night as seen by our security cameras. We think it may live under our back porch, as that is where our dryer vent exits the house, providing warm air under there on a regular basis. We also have a large flowering crabapple tree in our back yard that produces an abundance of crabapples every year, so much so that they are a bother to clean up. We leave the opossum alone, happy to have it do whatever cleanup it wants to do, but from the videos we see that although it thoroughly checks out the yard it never seems to show any interest in the hundreds of crabapples on the ground. Will opossums not eat crabapples?

Michael

**A:** Hello Michael,

I had to read up on crabapples to get a clue. Literature says they can be very tart. Are yours really tart?

Also, I would imagine you leave them on the ground long enough for them to start to split open, right?

That brings me to two possibilities, one, the apples are too tart for those opossum's taste. If ALL wildlife (birds included) are avoiding snacking on the downed apples, it could be a taste thing. I, myself, like only two kinds of apples.

The other thing is, if the apples aren't splitting open on the ground, the opossums don't have any tools to work on breaking them open. They don't grasp with their forepaws they always bite on it first, then transfer to their forepaws. If they are biting into it and the first taste is the bitter outer peel that most apples share, they probably do a hard pass on eating it.

I do put out apple cores for my visiting opossums, who readily eat them, but they barely have any peel on them, just the sweeter center.

If you want, you could try and slice some open and put them back on the ground to see if the opossums finish eating them. Having a clue as to what is hidden beneath that bitter peel may make them more interested in breaking into other apples. I would think it wouldn't be any different than when they eat snails and spit out the shell.

Otherwise, it's a lot less trouble to rake up the apples and dispose of them, rather than prepare a nightly buffet for the visiting opossum.

Leslie

**Q:** I have had 3 different visits from some sweet possums in the last 2 weeks. I don't mind,

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## MAIL POUCH continued from page 2

but I have one (of two) dogs that can reach them on the top of the fence and pull them down into the yard, where she tries to kill them. I saved two but I couldn't get her off of one in time and it was absolutely heartbreaking to see. I need to know if there is a way to keep them off the TOP of the wooden privacy fence. I bought a chair mat to cut and nail to the top of the upper cross board on the fence, to keep them from walking on there (the pointy nubs will be face up) but I don't know what to do with to the top of the actual fence. Any suggestions, please?!?

We seem to have a lot of them in the neighborhood now (I've seen 2 dead on the roads in the last few months), and I just can't deal with the dog with a poor possum in her mouth.....

I appreciate any help you can provide.

Thank you and best regards,

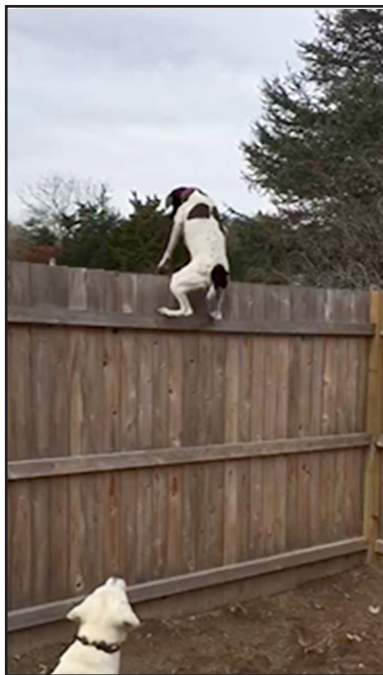
Melinda

**A:** Melinda,

Let me start with a story. I'm retired now, but many years ago when I was working Dispatch at a city Police Department in California late on Christmas Eve, we received a call of a man who had his ear bitten off by a dog. Police, Animal Control and Paramedics responded to find an earless man in the backyard of a friend he was visiting. He was walking along his friend's fence, looked over the fence, and the next door neighbor's dog jumped up the fence and bit off his ear. The man was transported to the hospital where doctors advised us we needed to retrieve the ear to

sew it back on. The neighbors who owned the dog were not home. Animal Control contained the dog while we searched the backyard of both residents, no ear. A local veterinarian was called in and opened her office for the dog. Still frantically trying to locate the owners of the dog, a decision was made. Surgery was performed on the dog to retrieve the ear. The intact ear was retrieved and rushed to the hospital to be successfully sewn onto the man. The dog came out of surgery okay.

A fence jumping dog left in the yard does not just jump at night when there's an opossum on the fence. It jumps at anything and everything day and night. The behavior needs to be trained out of the dog. Several dog trainers have told me a dog is never too old to be correctly trained out of an inappropriate behavior. It's all up to the whether the owner wants to put the time in to train their dog, or risk the liability such a dog could incur.



The dog owners in the situation above were sued for the cost of the emergency response of Police, Fire, Paramedics, hospital and veterinarian emergency medical bills and surgery ON A HOLIDAY. What I wasn't privy to is if their house was fully paid for or mortgaged. Mortgage companies can call in the loan or attach a hefty premium to a loan once gaining knowledge the owner has a dog that could cause liens against the house from damages.

Leslie

**Q:** Subject: Opossum scratching at back door

Noticed 4 weeks ago we had an opossum in our neighborhood. For a couple of months now we've been putting rotten raw fruits/veggies out by the big oak in our backyard for the squirrels. So assuming he/she has been enjoying them as well.

This last week I've been up late preparing for Thanksgiving, and twice the Opossum scratched at our back sliding glass door. Didn't run off when I approached the door. (Did not open door.) Only stayed a few seconds...almost like it was saying "hi".

Is this normal? Do I need to be concerned? We do have cats and I've been making sure they are in at night by 8pm. Also this doesn't look to be a full grown adult.

Stephanie

**A:** Hello Stephanie,

I can only think of two reasons the opossum would be at your door.

1. You have left the door open a crack after dusk and the opossum, unbeknownst to you has come in

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your kitchen, checked things out, then left.

2. Your back slider has always been closed, and that part of your house dark when the opossum has come by at night. You probably had lights on late at night while cooking that allowed the opossum to see there was something else beyond that glass door. There might have been the added incentives of interior food smells. He/she was probably seeing if it could find a breach it could pull on or nose its way into the house for more food.

Leslie

**Q**: Re: Subject: Possum and my chickens

Hi, We had a visitor last night. She was in the chicken run. I shooed her out and she came back a few hours later. She was in a tree, so I left her. My coop is secured with hardware wire dug into the ground. So, I hope my chickens are safe and I think she was just here for the food in the run. There isn't much, maybe some bread and gourds. I will try and keep the run cleaner and not leave food out overnight. But is there anything else I can do? I am sure she will be back.

Could I just feed her on the other side of the yard? Would that encourage her to stay away from the chickens? We would be happy to leave food out for her, just not in our fenced in part of the yard.

I was worried because they say to never feed wild animals. But I guess this is an exception to keep it away from my chickens and dogs. I can easily leave out dog food. I would like to have the

possum come to the far side of the yard so I don't attract any other animals close to the chicken coop. Do you think it will find the food if it is 100 to 150 feet away. I don't think the food would be in the possums' path to the coop. According to where the dogs were smelling, she came from the opposite way, but that is a difficult terrain to walk in. I'd like to place it in the woods onto the other side of the yard.

I appreciate your advice. I don't want to make more trouble with wild animals.

Lucinda

**A**: Lucinda,

I'm sure you are right, the possum would have been attracted to the food on the ground in the coop. If you left food out in the other side of the yard, I'm sure the chicken coop would be forgotten. Their whole motivation is food.

I'm going to attach our Captive Opossum Diet. Not that this opossum is captive but the foods listed will give you an idea of what all they will eat. A good mainstay would be dry dog or cat kibble. Just leave out no more than a cup for the opossum, you don't want food left over to attract other animals during the daylight hours.

They have an excellent sense of smell. The first night, I'd place a pile of food 15 feet from the coop in the direction you wish to guide the Opossum. Place the food near a bush, tree trunk or some other fixture where the Opossum would feel partially concealed from view while eating. The following night, make sure there's nothing but crumbs from the first night's feeding, move the food pile 15 feet closer to your ideal spot,

again placing near some cover.

Even a 10 gallon potted plant, empty or full would suffice for partial cover. You can use the same cover each night by moving it AND the food 15 feet, if you like. Soon it will be following its own trail every night to the designated spot.

Thank you for being so accommodating. Opossums can't dig like skunks, raccoons, foxes and coyotes can, but I'm sure none of them can get through buried footing.

Leslie

**Return Comment:**

She came back and ate from where I placed it. I'm going to name her Luna.

Lucinda

**Q**: I have a "Kitty Cube" which is a nicely insulated house that I put out for neighborhood cats looking for place to get warm during winter. That cat population seems to have disappeared.

I have an area the corner of the fence that seems to attract opossums in the summer..curling up in the leaves, but recently saw one at night when the dogs were barking in the same area...now winter...

I wonder if it be okay to move my Kitty Cube to that area during the upcoming winter as shelter for the opossum. I understand it may be ill advised...that's why I'm asking first. Thanks

Joyce

**A**: Joyce,

Moving your kitty cube to an

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area where opossums have been sleeping during the day is not disrupting anything. They are already using the area and to them the kitty cube is no more than a convenient pile of firewood, a discarded overturned flower pot or a BBQ not in use. It will not habituate them to humans. They have already learned to take advantage of our lifestyles to find food, water and shelter. Much of wildlife is getting squeezed out because of development. Opossums are adapting to live amongst us.

Leslie

**Q:** I was hoping I could reach out and get some guidance regarding my pet virginia opossum named Patrick. I got him when I was in Nevada where they're legal pets, and long story short, I live in Los Angeles now and I'm worried about not being able to get him the care he needs. I was hoping someone could point me in the right direction toward finding him a home where he would be able to be looked after properly (as I am not legally allowed to keep him here, so things get more complicated).

I'm sure as wildlife rehabilitators and animal lovers, emails like this must be frustrating and exhausting—I understand, and I apologize. I was in school to be a wildlife biologist prior to the pandemic, and Patrick is overall very healthy (no signs of MBD, fed proper diet with consideration to calcium/phosphorus ratios and monitoring of protein)... but a little overweight.

Anyway, I would be eternally grateful if anyone would be able to point me in the right direction toward rehoming him...

Thank you so much,  
Sage

**A:** Sage, I'm afraid you picked the absolute wrong time to move to California from Nevada with an illegal pet opossum.

1. Covid-19 has all zoos and most animal rehabilitation centers shut down. No one will be looking to take in an opossum to use for education or exhibit purposes, because neither of those activities are allowed, at least for another year or so. We pay nearly \$900.00 per animal to the State of California for an education animal permit that we count on to bring in donations. No one is going to take in another animal, pay the permit cost plus food, housing and vet bills with no chance of getting any donations from events with the animal.

2. The California Department of Fish & Wildlife just had the person in charge of exhibit animals in the state retire. There hasn't been a replacement chosen. We don't know what changes may be coming down, including maybe getting rid of the education/display wildlife program.

3. You say the opossum is overweight. Opossums live about 3 1/2 years in captivity. If you've had the opossum long enough for it to get overweight, then it probably won't be living long enough to put it on a diet and get its climbing muscles toned up via the purchase of various exercise implements to a point where it can be released. **IT WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN BACK TO ITS STATE OF ORIGIN TO BE RELEASED.**

4. Most times when an opossum has been kept for a long time, it becomes accustomed to its caregiver and resigned to its captivity and

doesn't display aggression. When it is transferred to another caregiver, the unfamiliarity triggers its aggressive/avoidance instincts and it will become a different opossum. Great news when its in still in rehab, because it means it can be released. Bad news when it's been in captivity and not properly exercised to be release-ready.

Leslie

**Q:** Subject: Co existing

I have a open unfinished garage with three ports. Its basically an oversized car port with a roof and dirt floor. It also has a loft. When we moved in the house came with an abandoned chicken that had been living on its own accord for 2 years since the last owners moved out. We have lived here for 6 years now and its still alive. We feed her chicken seed in our garage every day. Our garage is literally a big chicken house. We put hay up in the loft for her. She lays eggs but they don't get fertilized she is very protective over them. We have never seen opossums in our garage until the last few weeks. They should have plenty of space and chicken feed because we always put out extra for the birds. As long as there continues to be extra chicken feed will they pose a threat to my chicken? We also live on 7 wooded acres.

Kyra

**A:** Hello Kyra,

Where does the chicken usually sleep? Would she be accessible to the opossum?

I would buy some dog kibble and leave it out for the opossum after dusk. The opossum will eat chicken feed, but would prefer dog kibble.

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I would be concerned with the chicken being very protective over the eggs, she might get aggressive with her feed also. If the chicken came at the opossum, the opossum would respond defensively. The opossum would be interested in her eggs also.

I'm thinking with the opossum having its own food source and the chicken hers, one being nocturnal and the other diurnal, they shouldn't encounter each other.



You'd want the opossum to continue to visit because it will catch and eat mice and rats that would also plague the chicken and her eggs.

Leslie

**Q:** Subject: Tailless opossum

Hi my name is Gaby, I'm a biologist and I have been working with a recently opened small wildlife rehabilitation center in my country of Argentina. On October we received 8 orphaned opossums of the species *Didelphis albiventris* which we then proceeded to care for and latter release back into the wild with one exception, a young female which lost its tail as an infant and is still living in the center.

I have consulted several people on the matter but no one seems

to be certain if this individual could potentially survive in the wild without its tail. We are a relatively inexperienced group considering that the center it's only been in operation for around a year.

I really would appreciate your help on this matter.

Thank a lot!

**A:** Hello Gaby,

We only deal with *Didelphis Virginiana*, so I have no experience with your species. I believe your species is more arboreal than ours.

I have seen our species compensate for partial and full loss of their tail without a noticeable disability. Their tail is prehensile and used for climbing and dropping down. Without a tail, they adjust their grip with their four paws, and sometimes their mouth, and manage just fine. Also, we have had successful releases of opossums that have lost one front leg, OR lost one back leg (not both). They use their tail or their mouth to make up for the loss of one leg or foot to ambulate along fence tops and tree branches. Our opossums are constantly grooming and the rear feet are used to reach the front of their body to wash. It is amazing to watch an opossum be able to groom themselves with just the stump of a rear leg.

Nature is very resilient, very good at overcoming obstacles.

Thank you for what you are doing. Opossums are a very special kind of animal.

Leslie

**Q:** Subject: helping possums for 20 yrs here.

REAL dilemma. do not want the

wildlife to suffer. The possums eat what we put out for 15 yrs, they eat with the raccoons, skunks etc. NOW, per trail cam, not 1 but 2 possums are hurt in the same place. between and right above the eye, I thought I WAS going crazy. There are now rats out front where the possum visits us daily. COULD the rats and they be fighting? we don't hear anything. the wound are really bad. If I take them to humane society they would put them down. They are eating & drinking several times a day. Hope to ask a question. Thanks

Denise

**A:** Hello Denise,

My first guess would be something has become a hazard for them to push through or around on their foraging route. It could be bent chain link they are squeezing under or a damaged wood plank fence or trellis they navigate around. It could be anywhere in a mile radius of you so it would be impossible to track down. All you can do is check your own fencing and items against the fence for something protruding that could scratch their face while navigating around. They are really stubborn about keeping the same route, even when something has become more difficult to get around, rather than finding another route.

An opossum and a rat would be a short fight, the opossum would chomp down on the rat, then eat it. The rats are in front because they know the opossums are in the rear. Rats usually adjust their feeding times to avoid the opossums.

Thank you for your longevity in helping opossums. They sure can use it.

Leslie





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**Q:** Hello. I know the title sounds terrible but I did get bit by a opossum last night. In his defense, he had been attacked by my dog and he was bleeding profusely. I had to hold him by his tail to try to bandage the bleeding wound. He nipped me then. Ultimately I had to hold his head down and let my son apply the bandage. As the rehabber and I tried moving him to her transport cage, I had on leather welding gloves and he bit me. He didn't let go when we did and he managed to puncture the gloves and my hand. He got the rehabber a couple of times that were more shallow. I know they rarely carry rabies and in the absence of concern for that, I would not seek medical attention for the wound. I am a nurse and I cleaned us both, and applied antibiotic ointment immediately to both of us. I just want to know, from experts, if I should seek care for the remote possibility of rabies. I think I just need reassurance, but I'm a little bit nervous about it. The wound is otherwise very clean,

but my finger is very bruised! I had no clue those things had jaws that powerful! Regardless, I'm an animal lover and am partial to these guys. I rehabbed some babies when I was young and they all survived to adulthood and could be released. I won't stop helping them, but will likely opt for some thicker gloves. :) Thanks!

Sincerely,

Brandy

**A:** All I can tell you is what I would do (and it has happened to me a few times). I would disinfect your wound, just as you did, and know that I was going to have a very painful hand, with swelling and numbness for several days because of all the nerve endings located there.

Opossums have to already be sick, running a fever, and then get bit by another animal that is shedding the rabies virus in order to get it. Rabies don't survive in the opossum's low body temp of 95 degrees.

It is sometimes necessary to move an opossum a short distance by holding onto the base of its tail. You don't want to hold onto the middle of the tail, unless it's a lightweight juvenile, you could dislocate tail bones. An opossum held aloft will look for purchase, thinking they are falling. I always have a thick roll of newspaper rolled up for them to grasp as I hold the tail. He was holding onto your gloves for dear life.

I don't know what the county veterinarian's rules are in the county you live in, but any reported bite from a wild mammal may institute a search for that opossum and rounding up all the opossums in the area to kill and do a brain check for rabies. All medical and law enforcement personnel are MANDATORY REPORTERS for animal bites, even if they learn about the bite in a social, off-duty setting. By law, they must pass on the bite information, however they learn about it, to the state authorities.

I hope this information helps.

Leslie

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Signs that you should seek medical attention include:

- You remain ill after more than 7 days
- You have severe or bloody diarrhea
- You have a fever of 101.5 F or higher for more than a day

You should also consult a doctor if you are over 65 or have a weakened immune system due to illness, because you may be at risk of more severe symptoms. Children under the age of 5 are also at risk of severe infection. Such cases, as well as those with severe complications, often require antibiotics and, possibly, hospitalization.

Salmonella is rarely fatal, but if the bacteria enters your bloodstream, it can be life-threatening, especially for people with weakened immune systems, such as the elderly, the very young, and those with diseases like cancer and HIV/AIDS.

## CAN YOU PREVENT SALMONELLA?

You can protect yourself against salmonella poisoning in several ways.

- Thoroughly cook poultry, ground beef, and eggs. This kills the bacteria.
- Avoid foods that contain raw eggs or unpasteurized milk.
- Wash your hands, rubbing soapy hands vigorously under water for at least 20 seconds.
- Thoroughly clean cutting boards. Cutting boards quickly develop divots and scratches that can harbor bacteria that sponges alone will not reach. Soapy scrub brushes must be applied to the cutting board surface to get into the crevices.
- Clean all other work surfaces, knives and other utensils with soap and water right after

prepping raw meat or poultry.

- You may use your dishwasher to sanitize utensils. Dishwashers have heating elements that elevate their water temperature above the typical 140-degree source from the water heater. Some bacteria may require boiling (212 degrees) to kill. Salmonella cells are killed at 120-degree temperatures.
- Do not let raw meat or poultry come into contact with other foods, especially those that don't require cooking (for example, lettuce, tomatoes, and other raw salad ingredients).

Because salmonella bacteria grow and multiply at room temperature, foods should not be left out of the fridge for more than 2 hours.

## CAN YOU GET SALMONELLA FROM DRINKING WATER?

Salmonella is found in every region of the United States and throughout the world. Millions of germs can be released in a bowel movement of an infected human or animal. Salmonella may be found in water sources such as private wells that have been contaminated with the feces of infected

humans or animals. Waste can enter the water through different ways, including sewage overflows, sewage systems that are not working properly, polluted storm water runoff, and agricultural runoff. Wells may be more vulnerable to such contamination after flooding, particularly if the wells are shallow, have been dug or bored, or have been submerged by floodwater for long periods of time.

If you suspect a problem and your drinking water comes from a private well, you may contact your state certification officer for a list of laboratories in your area that will perform tests on drinking water for a fee. <https://www.epa.gov/dwlabcert/contact-information-certification-programs-and-certified-laboratories-drinking-water>

## CAN YOU GET SALMONELLA FROM ANOTHER PERSON?

Salmonella poisoning can be passed from person to person. If you are infected with salmonella and don't wash your hands thoroughly after a bowel movement, your dirty hands can pass salmonella along in several ways, including: direct contact with another person, touching a surface that someone else then touches, and preparing food that is served raw or undercooked.

**SALMONELLA**  
*lives in many animals*

**TYPHOIDAL**  
**NON - TYPHOIDAL**  
*common cause of food borne disease*

**Food Safety**

*clean areas*      *separate raw and cooked*      *cook thoroughly*      *safe temperature*      *clean water*

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# SALMONELLA continued from page 8

## A CASE OF SALMONELLA WITH ORPHAN BABY OPOSSUMS

Possibly, as with infant humans, baby opossums have more severe consequences when exposed to salmonella. At least they did in one case.

One opossum rehabilitator received a donation of several terrariums and aquariums that had been used for pet lizards and turtles. These glass enclosures serve well for housing very small opossums, allowing for temperature regulation.

The rehabilitator thoroughly wiped down the enclosures but did not disinfect

them. After populating all the enclosures with babies, within a week's time, all 20 orphan opossums had raging diarrhea and died within a few days. Testing of the opossums and enclosures revealed the salmonella bacteria was present.

Some tests have indicated that Salmonella infections in humans can be more severe if the human patient is on antibiotics, which tend to render naturally occurring gut flora less effective.

Be prepared to treat salmonella. Check

with your veterinarian and see what they would advise. Check in advance, just so you already have a plan in action if you take an opossum from a finder that was keeping the opossum in a terrarium or aquarium. ALWAYS ASK WHAT THEY HAD THE OPOSSUM CONTAINED IN, assume no one properly disinfected anything. All information you obtain can help you determine course of treatment should anything manifest itself.

Those of you who treat homeopathically will find this website helpful:

<https://www.drhomeo.com/homeopathic-treatment/homeopathic-medicine-for-food-poisoning/>

### **THE OPOSSUM SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES WISHES TO THANK OUR CONTRIBUTORS**

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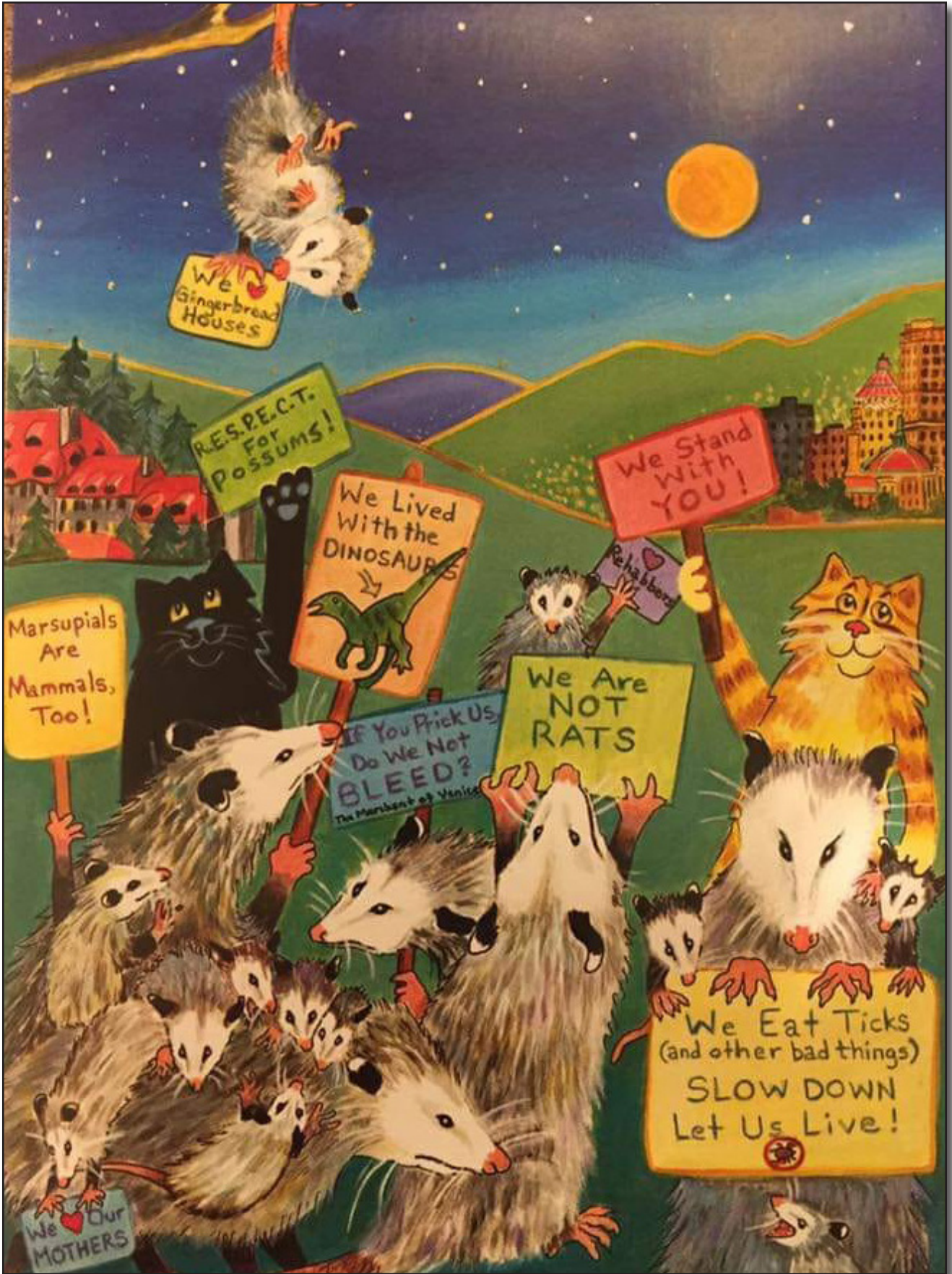
Zoe Jewell

Cynthia Gailey

Sam Page - On behalf of Joseph Young

B C Biberdorf

Without our contributors and those members whose work generates donations to OSUS, we would not be able to care for as many orphans, save as many injured or reach so many people with our information on opossums. Good job, and thank you all! Your generosity really makes a difference.







## Opossum Society of the United States P.O. Box 850695 Yukon, OK 73085

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