Stay Healthy
When caring for your new ducklings or chicks

Chicks and ducklings may appear healthy and clean, but they can carry germs that cause illness. The germs that poultry shed in their droppings can contaminate their bodies, the areas where they live, and even the things that they touch.

S*almonella* is one type of germ spread by live poultry, and it can cause nausea, vomiting and diarrhea in people. Serious complications are rare, but they are more likely to occur in the very young, the very old, and people with existing health problems. Raising a duckling or chick can be lots of fun, and by following a few easy recommendations, you can help keep your family healthy.

Raising poultry can be safe and enjoyable

Practice these healthy habits as you enjoy your new birds.

- **Always wash your hands** with soap and water after touching live poultry.
- Use hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available.
- Do not allow children under five years old to handle baby chicks or other young birds.
- Wash the materials associated with raising or caring for live poultry, such as cages, water bottles and food containers frequently.
- Don't let live poultry inside your home, especially in areas where food or drink is prepared, served, or stored.
- Don't snuggle or kiss the birds, and don't touch your mouth after handling live poultry.

3.2012

VERMONT
AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE FOOD & MARKETS
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH