

## HOW TO HANDLE AND RESTRAIN POULTRY

By handling poultry poorly, you can stress or even injure them. This will make them difficult to move. The quality of their meat will be lower. These tips will help you **handle poultry such as chickens and turkeys properly**.

Only workers holding a certificate of competence are allowed to handle and restrain poultry.

### ABOUT POULTRY

- ✦ Poultry are social animals but can panic quickly
- ✦ **Like:** well-lit areas
- ✦ **Dislike:** direct sunlight, draught

### REMEMBER

- ✦ You may not be able to move an injured bird without causing it pain. In this case, **stun and kill it on the spot** as quickly as possible

### HOW TO CATCH POULTRY

#### CHICKENS

- ✦ Put your hand above **both wings**
- ✦ Use your other hand to grasp **both legs**
- ✦ **Lift**

#### TURKEYS

- ✦ Catch their **legs from behind** using one of your hands
- ✦ Gently lower them **onto their breast**
- ✦ Moving your other arm under their body, wrap your arm **around the turkey's body and wings**
- ✦ **Lift**

### HOW TO CARRY POULTRY

#### IN CRATES

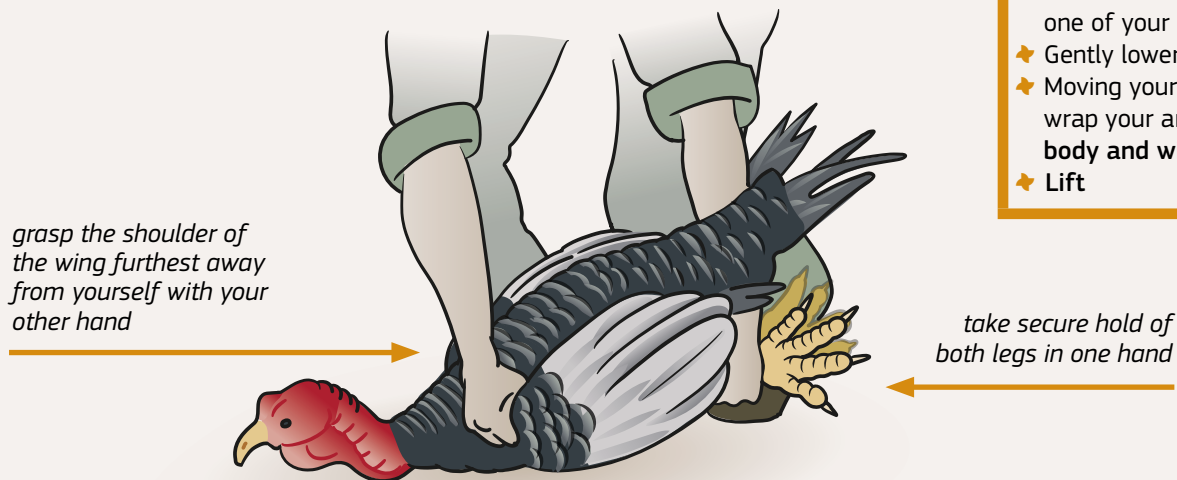
- ✦ Move crates **horizontally and mechanically**, and make no sudden movements

#### BY HAND

- ✦ Carry the bird **upright**
- ✦ Support the breast with your hand
- ✦ Cover wings with your other hand

Or (chickens only):

- ✦ **Carry upside down by the chicken's legs**
- ✦ Only carry a maximum of 3 chickens in 1 hand



## NEVER TRY TO MOVE A BIRD BY

- ✦ Striking it
- ✦ Pressing sensitive body parts
- ✦ Lifting/dragging by the bird's neck/head/wing/tail
- ✦ Using an electric shock/sharp instrument
- ✦ Holding its eyes



# HOW TO RESTRAIN POULTRY

If you restrain a bird correctly, it can make stunning and killing them more efficient, preventing the bird from experiencing unnecessary suffering.

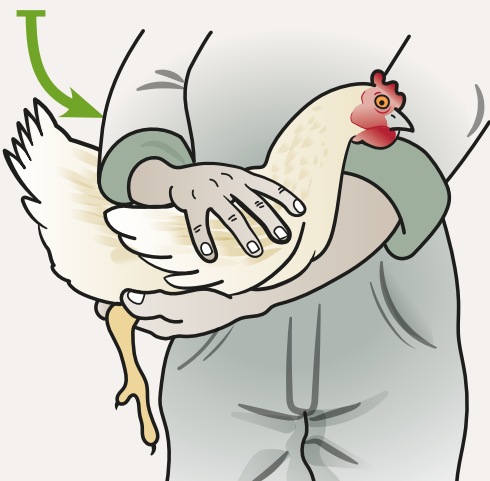
## NEVER RESTRAIN BY

✦ Immobilising it with an electric shock



### MANUAL RESTRAINING

- ✦ Cover the bird's wings with your hand
- ✦ Hold their legs and support their breast with your other hand



Or

- ✦ Place both of your hands over the bird's wings
- ✦ Once the bird is under control, slide one hand under its body, grasping its legs between your fingers, and support its breast on your palm
- ✦ Control the bird's wings with your other hand, or by holding it under your arm
- ✦ The bird's head is then accessible for stunning

Or (smaller birds)

- ✦ Lift the bird and hold it by both legs

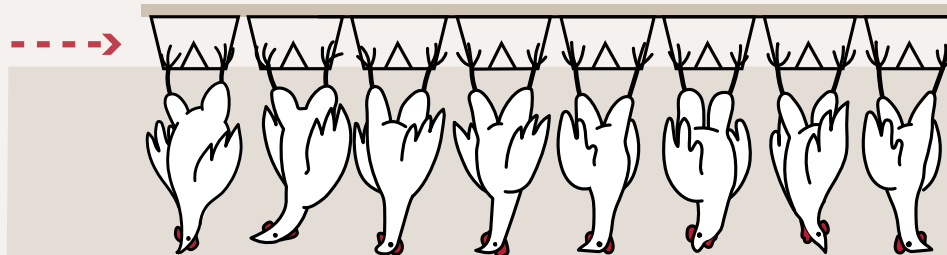
### HANGING/SHACKLING

- ✦ Check the shackles are the right size for the bird so they don't put too much pressure on the bird's legs
- ✦ Clean shackles daily with water and brushes, and regularly with acid to prevent scaling
- ✦ Keep the shackle line straight while birds are conscious, with as few curves as possible
- ✦ Use a contact strip that rubs against the bird's breast
- ✦ Keep lighting low and constant throughout the area

#### STEP-BY-STEP

- ✦ Move crates close to the shackle line, at a good height for removing the birds
- ✦ You can now wet the shackles
- ✦ Remove birds individually with both of your hands
- ✦ Catch the birds and lift them by both legs
- ✦ Lower them onto their breast
- ✦ Hang them by both legs
- ✦ Place their breast against the contact strip

Give birds time to settle before stunning: up to **12 seconds for chickens**, **20 seconds for turkeys**.  
Hang chickens upside down for a **maximum of 1 minute**, or **2 minutes for turkeys**.



### USING A CONE

- ✦ You should first check the cone is the right size for the bird
- ✦ Put the bird in head-down
- ✦ If conscious, keep chickens in cone for a maximum of 1 minute, or 2 minutes for turkeys

