

Preparing the catching of broilers

Farmer

Transport preparation 'What to do?'

- ✓ 72 hours before catching: **book** the catching team and **give** clear **guidance** and instructions
- ✓ 48 hours before catching: **inform** the transporter of the total number of animals and **order** enough crates / containers / vehicles for all birds, keep in mind climate conditions
- ✓ **Do not fast broilers for more than 12 hours (including transport), and not less than four hours (prior to departure). Provide water** up to the start of catching

Ready for catching!

How do I check the 'fitness' to travel?

Check the birds before the catching team and the driver arrives. Look out for broken bones, severe difficulties in walking or breathing, or other obvious clinical signs (e.g. emaciated birds). **Do not load unfit birds.** You are responsible that they are **euthanized humanely** by a trained person, without any delay. **Avoid** the transport of **wet broilers**.



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Catching Staff

General guidelines for catching

✓ 'What are good catching conditions?'

1. *Prevent smothering at all times*
2. *Bring crates / containers as close as possible to the birds*
3. *Use blue light and minimal noise*
4. *Maintain all loading equipment and check before loading*
5. *Wear appropriate clothes (e.g. dark coloured, clean overalls, hygiene caps, clean boots)*
6. *Make sure that your hands are clean and disinfected*
7. *During catching, always check fitness and act accordingly!*

1. The **farmer is responsible** for catching and should be present to oversee the procedure
2. Catch with an **experienced, well trained, well equipped team** of sufficient size. Do all catchers have a certificate of competence? Even better!
3. Check **birds' fitness during catching** and act accordingly!
4. Move **slowly** and **reduce noise**; herd & catch birds gently
5. Do **not overload containers / crates** and close them carefully. Always **check** and **release trapped body parts**
6. Load the birds with care in an **upright position**. Put birds lying on their backs upright again
7. Using **dividers**? Clean them before and after catching

Catching Staff



Catching by hand – ‘What are good practices?’

1. **Carefully** catch and carry birds:
 1. Always support broilers under the breast / abdominal region
 2. Do not catch/carry broilers by the neck or wings
 3. Make sure broilers do not hit against objects, like the water system or perches
 4. Make sure broilers do not sway or swing while carrying.
2. Ideally, broilers should be caught by **two legs**. If broilers have to be carried, **bodies** have to be **supported**
3. Catch up to **maximum 3 broilers (> 2 kg) per hand**, or **5 broilers (< 2 kg)**. Use the other hand to **support** the breast / abdominal regions
4. Make **carrying distance** short. Bring the containers / crates as close to the broilers as possible



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Catching mechanically – ‘What are good practices?’

1. The ‘**catching machine supervisor**’ checks the belt and collecting speed continuously during loading and adjusts if necessary
2. The **operators** at container are **responsible** for preventing overloading and closing the crates / drawers, despite the weight-system
3. The **catching team** needs to herd the broilers on the catching machine without crowding



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