

On-Farm Chicken Euthanasia Guidelines

Version 1.0



THE AIM OF EUTHANIZING A CHICKEN is to minimize suffering so the bird is rendered dead as quickly as possible. Cervical dislocation is a fast and efficient method when performed properly. Below is a step-by-step method of carrying out cervical dislocation in a humane manner.

The goal of cervical dislocation is to sever the spinal cord and separate the vertebrae so that the bird does not recover consciousness.

Here is an example of how to perform cervical dislocation on a chicken.



STEP 2

When the bird is calm, immobilize the wings by placing your non-dominant hand over the wings of the bird and resting the bird against your hip.



STEP 3

With your dominant hand grasp the head between your two fingers where the skull meets the top of the neck.



STEP 4 & 5

In one smooth motion, stretch the neck out as far as it will go then snap the head back sharply to separate the vertebrae and sever the spinal cord.

Hold the bird until the involuntary movements have stopped.



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