



International Conference on Poultry Catching & Loading

Sharing better practices and knowledge to improve animal welfare!

- Date:** October 23, 2025
- Venue:** [De Tuin van de Smid](#), Polderpad 8, 2322 LB Leiden, the Netherlands
- Language:** English (international audience)
- Parking:** [Tuinvereniging Cronesteyn](#) (free, 12-minute walk). More paid options nearby.
- Contact:** madelaine@eyesonanimals.com

Programme – Thursday, October 23, 2025

09:00 – 09:20 *Arrival, registration, coffee & tea*

09:20 – 09:35 *Introduction: from catchy idea to catching in action* – Lesley Moffat and Madelaine Looije, Eyes on Animals

SESSION 1 – INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

09:35 – 10:00 *Catching poultry humanely: what research tells us and where to go next* – Prof. Donald Broom, UK (including 10 minutes Q&A)

10:00 – 10:40 *Brazil's leadership in upright catching and how to combat heat stress* – Victor Lima, Brazil (including 10 minutes Q&A)

10:40– 11:05 *The importance of cooperation between farmers, catchers and slaughterhouses* – Kätthe Kittelsen, Animalia, Norway (including 10 minutes Q&A)

11:05 – 11:25 Panel and group discussion: What can we learn from international practices?

11:25 – 11:45 *Coffee & tea break with sweets*

SESSION 2 – ENFORCEMENT & INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS

11:45 – 12:10 *From trauma to timelines: limitations and opportunities* – Mirthe de Wit, Royal GD (Dutch Animal Health Service), The Netherlands (including 10 minutes Q&A)

12:10 – 12:35 *Poultry in Focus: AI-powered camera monitoring for welfare during catching* – Carsten Cruse, CLK GmbH, Germany (including 10 minutes Q&A)

12:35 – 13:00 *When did it happen? Forensic lesion timing in pigs applied to poultry* – Henrik Elvang Jensen, University of Copenhagen, Denmark (including 10 minutes Q&A)

13:00 – 14:00 *Lunch*

14:00 – 14:20 Panel and group discussion: How can pathology and smart technology contribute to bird welfare?

SESSION 3 – DESIGN, EQUIPMENT AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

14:20 – 14:45 *Practical insights and modern approaches to poultry catching* – Peter Knapen, Jekal Poultry Services, The Netherlands (including 10 minutes Q&A)

14:45 – 15:10 *Field study on catching and loading in the Netherlands* – Thea van Niekerk, Wageningen Livestock Research, The Netherlands (including 10 minutes Q&A)

15:10 – 15:35 *How design influences bird welfare* – Madelaine Looije, Eyes on Animals (including 10 minutes Q&A)

 **15:35 – 15:55** *Coffee & tea break*

15:55 – 16:20 *From preparation to handling: practical ways to reduce stress during catching* – Vera Bavinck, FairPoultry, The Netherlands (including 10 minutes Q&A)

16:20 – 16:45 *Automatic loading: critical factors for welfare and potential benefits* – Bram Godrie, GTC Technics, The Netherlands (including 10 minutes Q&A)

 **16:45 – 17:15** Panel and group discussion: What fixes are already within reach to improve welfare during catching?

✓ **17:15 – 17:20** Haven't yet? Fill out the form for questions, suggestions and brilliant ideas!

 **17:20 – 18:00** *Networking with snacks and Dutch beer (alcohol-free or with a little stimulation)*