



CATCHING CHICKENS

The way most laying hens are caught causes a lot of stress and pain. They are grabbed by one leg, held inverted (3-5 chickens in one hand) and stuffed upside down into crates. The birds regularly suffer from injuries such as fractures, dislocations and bruises.

Grabbing them by the leg and holding them inverted is in violation of the European legislation and is cruel. That's why Eyes on Animals has developed a more humane alternative: the **upright-catching method**.

REGULAR CATCHING METHOD

- Grabbed by one leg
- Three to five hens held upside down in each hand
- Stuffed upside down into crates



UPRIGHT-CATCHING METHOD

- Caught upright around the wings/chest
- Maximum two birds at a time
- Fewer injuries and less panic

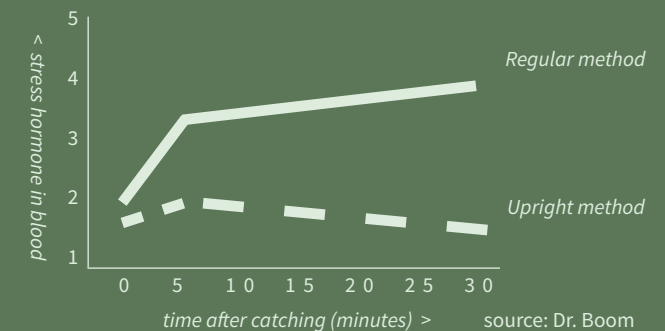


Catching the hens using the upright catching method takes 1.5 to 2 times longer but the additional costs per egg are only a fraction of a cent. Kipster calculated their additional cost which was € 0.0004 per egg.

[▶ CLICK HERE TO SEE THE NEW METHOD IN PRACTICE](#)

LESS STRESS AND FEWER FRACTURES

Scientific research shows that the stress level in poultry is much lower when they are caught upright. In addition, there are fewer bruises and fractures.



CALMING THE CATCH

LESS STRESS, FEWER INJURIES



Eyes on Animals

Watching out for their welfare

Well-known research institutes agree with us that the upright catching method is the most animal-friendly method:

WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH:

“The upright catching method is, for animal welfare, preferable to the catching machine and the traditional way of catching.”

RESEARCHERS KNOWLES AND BROOM:

“Handling (catching and loading) appears to be the most traumatic part of transportation, as well as eliciting a considerable emergency reaction, it is the cause of high levels of bone breakage. The problems have been shown to be reduced by slower, gentler handling.”

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AGENCY ANIMALIA:

“The upright catching method resulted in fewer wing fractures.”

CHICKENS HAVE DIFFICULTY BREATHING WHEN SUSPENDED UPSIDE DOWN

Chickens cannot breathe properly when inverted. They do not have a diaphragm like other living animals that reduces the weight of the organs on their lungs.



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HUMANE CHICKEN-CATCHING TRAINING

Starting in 2016 Eyes on Animals has been giving Humane Chicken Catching training courses to chicken catchers.

THEORY - 3 HOURS

- Chicken signals (behaviour, fitness and noise)
- Catching and loading techniques
- Use of crates
- Laws and regulations

We treat the topics by watching visual material together.

PRACTICAL - 2 HOURS

- The catchers learn to catch and load chickens upright.

These catching teams in The Netherlands have completed the training: Den Ouden, Gemril, Van den Broek, Pots, Jekal, Smeding



👍 THEY SWITCHED

These egg and poultry companies switched to the upright catching method:

- ✓ Rondeel (2018)
- ✓ Kipster (2019)
- ✓ Boerveenshof (2020)
- ✓ Sijbenga (2021)
- ✓ Demeter (2021)
- ✓ Egg packaging-centre De Grote Kamp (2021)
- ✓ Ekoplaza (2021)
- ✓ Eike van Smits (2022)

PETER KOELEWIJN, RONDEEL:



“The upright catching method suits our philosophy: we have to adapt our husbandry system to the animal, instead of the other way around. We think upright catching is feasible for our company and the right thing to do.”

RUUD ZANDERS, KIPSTER:



“Our experience: the birds are much quieter and calmer and experience less stress. The additional costs are so negligible and totally worth it.”

CONTACT

**Interested in our Humane Chicken Catching training?
Want to know more about upright catching?**

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