

Submission for Animal welfare Standards- Poultry and Specifically relating to Quail.

These notes are a very brief identification of what I consider are the three most contentious issues which need informed, and careful research, and debate:-

1. Killing – In our operation we kill the bird by decapitation, and place the dead bird in ‘killing cones’ to bleed out, and restrict spasms. It is a quick process with minimal stress to the bird. I have travelled extensively to the USA and Europe investigating alternative killing methods eg:- ‘electric stunning’, ‘Gas stunning’ and ‘Low Atmosphere Pressure stunning’. The word ‘stunning’ is used universally, however from my observations the reality was inevitably death to the bird and in my opinion, not any more humane or less stressful or quicker than decapitation, or dislocation of the neck. I also point out that the methodology of killing will need to vary with the scale, and equipment utilized in each abattoir.
2. Breeding Birds in Cages. It must be recognised that quail, unlike poultry, have no nesting or brooding tendencies whatsoever. Running breeding quail in a deep litter, or free range environment would result in extensive faecal contamination of eggs and the associated salmonella, and campylobacter risks. In my opinion, breeding cages for quail should be single tiered only, and be furnished with generous ‘dust bath’ facilities.
3. Catching, Handling and transport of quail to the slaughter needs very careful consideration. In my opinion, the maximum time from catching the quail, to slaughter should be 4 hours.

I am reasonably comfortable with most of the other literature in the welfare science review, and draft document.

Clive Wylie

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Small 3500 quail per week production and processing on site in Queensland.

Happy to be involved in direct discussions if required in fine tuning these standards.