

Decision making matrix for destruction of birds*

Category of birds	Pet/Zoo birds ▪ individual or groups ▪ all species ▪ in transit	Layers in cages Incl. breeders	Layers on the floor Incl breeders	Layers free range Incl breeders	Broilers on the floor Incl started pullets	Broilers free range	Pullets in cages
Method of killing							
Lethal injection (i/v, i/c or i/h)	Preferred. Must have veterinary supervision	Must have veterinary supervision Must have skilled operators Slow for large numbers					
Neck dislocation	Experienced operators only. Not recommended in front of owners.	Experienced operators only. Efficient for small numbers. Has potential psychological and physical trauma to operators					
Carbon dioxide gassing - gas in container (wheelie bin, skip)	For larger groups. Can use small bins.	Good for large number of farms worked on simultaneously. Use large numbers of teams. Some resources may be rate limiting.					
Carbon dioxide gassing - bulk gas in truck	Possible But inefficient	Good for large sheds & small number of farms/sheds May be resource limited for large number of farms		Not applicable	Good for large sheds & small number of farms/sheds May be resource limited for large number of farms	Not applicable	Good for large sheds & small number of farms/sheds May be resource limited for large number of farms
Carbon dioxide gassing - in shed	Where building is near airtight, or can be covered completely	Preparation of sheds difficult. Allow timing to remove caged birds from cages	Controlled environment sheds or similar, need to wrap other sheds.	Not applicable	Controlled environment sheds or similar, need to wrap other sheds.	Not applicable	Preparation of sheds difficult. Allow timing to remove caged birds from cages

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Method of killing		afterwards					afterwards
Carbon Monoxide gassing	No	Not recommended. Animal and human welfare issues					
Close down shed	No	Not recommended. Significant welfare issues Leads to increased temperature (heat stress) and reduced air flow (suffocation) Accelerated decomposition					
Shooting	Maybe useful for larger free range birds eg emus, ducks	No	No	No	No	No	No
Poisoning/sedation	Sedation –Yes Restricted. Alphachloralase to bait for difficult to catch then lethal injection or neck dislocation Poisoning - No.	No	No	Sedation –Yes Restricted. Alphachloralase to bait for difficult to catch then lethal injection or neck dislocation Poisoning - No.	No	Sedation –Yes Restricted. Alphachloralase to bait for difficult to catch then lethal injection or neck dislocation Poisoning - No.	No

Layers = chickens, quail, turkeys etc

Broilers = chickens, quail, turkeys, ducks, pigeons, etc

*Pest birds/free-flying birds – specialist contractors with methods as appropriate