Pocket Farm Guide:
Humane Poultry Dispatch

Broomstick method of neck dislocation

It is recommended that if you have not performed the broomstick method before that you should have someone with more experience present to oversee the procedure until you are more confident.

1. Take the bird to be dispatched away from the rest of the flock so as not to distress the other birds

2. Calm the bird on the way to your dispatch location which should have even solid floor, not gravel or loose dirt or anywhere with deep vegetation or grass

3. Start sitting or standing whichever you prefer but from here on perform the actions as quickly and calmly as possible.

4. Holding the feet firmly in one hand lower the bird towards the floor upside down and with the breast towards you.

5. The bird will probably curl it's head up as it approaches the ground and at this point you can lay a sturdy broomstick across the neck just behind the head.

6. Position your feet on each end of the stick 8-12 inches (20-30cm) from the head to secure the neck under the stick. You can kneel on the stick for smaller birds

7. Rotate the bird through 45 degrees and pull upward until the neck dislocates. Judging this is a matter of experience especially as more or less force will be required for different types of poultry, breeds and size of bird. Unfortunately it is not unusual for inexperienced dispatchers to apply too much force initially which will detach the head but applying increasing firm pressure until you feel dislocation should avoid this. Remember at all times that you are trying to get the job done as quickly and efficiently as possible.

8. At this stage the bird will usually flap vigorously but this is normal and, as long and dislocation has occurred, the bird is dead at this point.

9. If you are using the bird for meat an extra stretch of the neck will break blood vessels allowing the blood to pool in the neck and aid preparation of the carcass. Pluck the bird in the inverted position immediately.