

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND  
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES  
LARGE ANIMAL TEACHING

**SOP No:** ATT 030

**SUBJECT:** Handling poultry

**POLICY:** Demonstrator: Operators should be familiar with the correct techniques.

Students: Procedures should be clearly demonstrated to students before they handle birds.

**PRECAUTIONS:** Covered footwear and disposable gloves.  
Dust masks may be required depending on risk.  
Do not pick up birds by the neck or legs.  
Birds should be handled quietly before, during and after the procedure.  
Wash hands and exposed body parts thoroughly with soap and water after handling birds.  
Birds are susceptible to stress. Excessive exertion may have adverse effects on the bird's health and production. Ensure that the bird's sternum is not restricted

**EQUIPMENT:** Wing tags

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Catch and restrain quickly and efficiently holding with both hands with the wings held in the natural folded position.
2. When procedure is completed, it is important to place birds back into the same enclosure to avoid aggression between birds.

Wing tagging

1. Hold a wing outstretched with one hand.
2. Pierce the centre of the wing web with the sharp open end of the wing tag using other hand. Take care that muscle tissue is not pierced.
3. Ensure that the wing tag is locked in place.

On completion of procedure observe animal for signs of excessive distress and treat as required.

Ensure the bird is not entangled in the cage or pen door.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**DATE ISSUED:** 24.06.2009

**REVISED:**

### REFERENCES

1. Wolfensohn, S & Lloyd M, 1998, *Handbook of Laboratory Animal Management and Welfare*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn, Blackwell Science.