



Animal Behavior and Restraint


Poultry




IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Poultry


- Birds reared for commercial purposes
 - Chickens, turkeys
 - Ducks, geese
 - Pheasant, quail
 - Others...



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Poultry Characteristics


- Prey animals
- Fast heart rate and respiration rate
- Pneumatic bones
- Most cannot fly
- Pecking order
 - Hierarchy
 - Dominant and submissive



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Poultry Characteristics

- Social animals
 - Stay together in flocks
- Flock flight zone
 - Birds move away as a group when handler approaches
 - Distance varies with species and between flocks



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Stressors

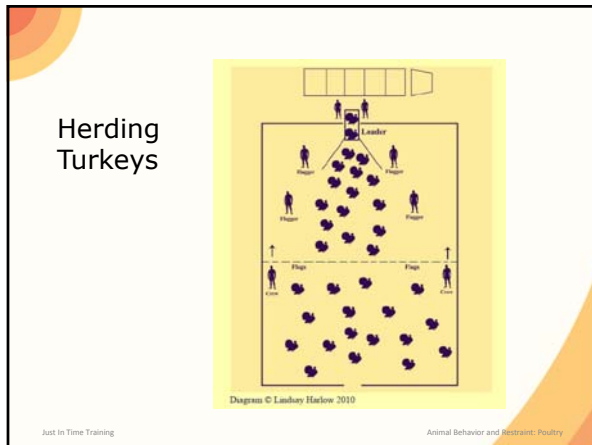
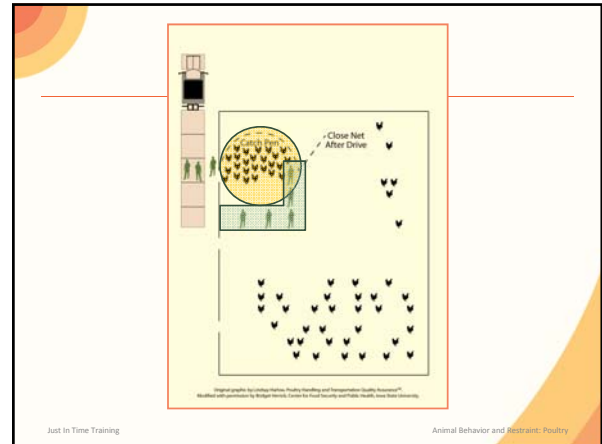
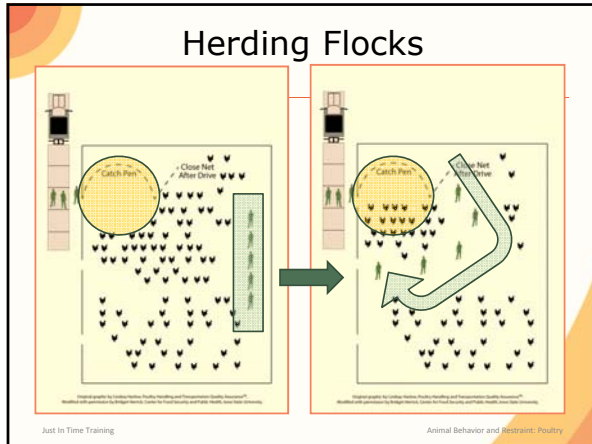
- Rapid movement
 - Walk slowly
 - Slow, steady movements
- Bright light
 - Dim lights when moving
- Sound
 - Minimize noise
- Strangers

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Signs of Stress in Birds

- Overheating
 - Red-flushed faces, combs, wattles
 - Rapid panting and open-mouthed breathing
- Chilling
 - Blue combs
 - Feathers fluffed up
 - Shivering
- Lack of oxygen
 - Gasping and stretching of neck when breathing
 - Purple combs and wattles

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Restraint

- Slow, steady movements
- Grab both legs
- Do not handle by wings
- Use one hand to support the body
- Hold securely
- Use a towel if necessary

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Safety

- Avoid Injuries from Poultry
 - Beaks
 - Claws
 - Spurs (roosters)
 - Quick movements
- Masks
 - Dust and dander

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Additional Information

- A Quality Assurance Program for Handlers and Transports of Poultry
 - <http://www.poultryhandling.org/pdf/JAN2011PHTQAweb2.pdf>
- Federation of Animal Science Societies – Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching, Third Edition
 - <http://www.fass.org>

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