

"Anvol Charter" for the Reception of the Catching Team

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Creating better catching conditions with the Anvol Charter

The catching phase is a high-stress moment for broilers, with risks of injury and welfare deterioration if not properly managed. The Anvol charter, developed in collaboration with a consortium of industry stakeholders, offers a set of practical, general guidelines to help farmers welcome and supervise the catching team under the best conditions. It includes reminders of key biosecurity

measures, encouragement to provide basic hospitality (such as coffee, tea, or snacks), and highlights the importance of farmer presence and oversight during the process. Designed as a simple written document, and also available as a poster, the charter helps foster a respectful working environment that promotes better handling practices and supports animal welfare at a critical time.

Anvol Charter: key commitments for improved catching conditions

The Anvol interprofessional charter (Fig.1) establishes a comprehensive framework to ensure that poultry catching operations are carried out under respectful, controlled, and biosecurity conditions. It details the responsibilities of all actors involved—farmers, catching teams, producer organisations, and slaughterhouses. Farmers are expected to provide proper reception facilities for catching teams, including clean changing rooms, toilets, refreshments, and access to biosecurity equipment (e.g. footbaths, pressure washers). They must also be present or represented during the catching process, manage lighting and ventilation, and ensure compliance with animal welfare standards. Catching teams are required to undergo training in biosecurity and animal welfare, use protective gear, handle birds carefully, and document their interventions. The charter also sets expectations for producer organisations and slaughterhouses to facilitate planning, logistics, and feedback systems. Altogether, these commitments aim to reduce stress and injuries to animals, improve team working conditions, and reinforce cooperation between stakeholders.

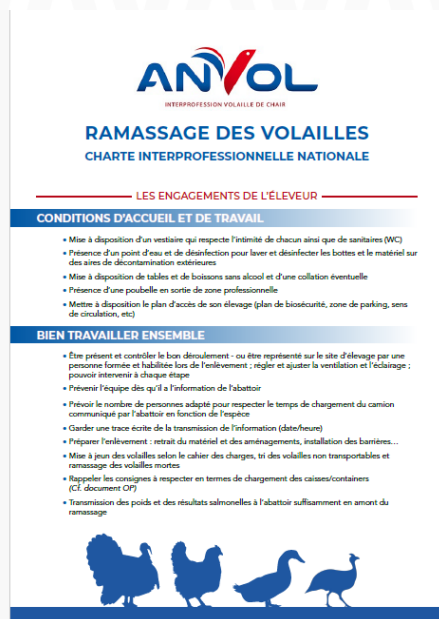


Figure 1. Illustrated example of the first page of the Anvol charter.



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A concrete example of implementing the Anvol charter on a broiler farm

A French farmer has adapted his facilities to meet the Anvol charter's standards, ensuring proper reception for catching teams. He converted storage areas into 35m² reception and changing rooms (Fig.2) in each barn and built a mobile bungalow shared between three farms as a break and hygiene area. Amenities include coffee, tea, snacks (sweet and/or salty), and gender-sensitive changing areas (e.g. partitions in changing rooms). The 6–10 person teams are welcomed 15 minutes before catching for a briefing on bird handling (good bird handling, respect crate limits). A 10-minute break is given between truck loadings, and a pressure washer is available for boot cleaning. This setup reflects a respectful, effective approach to improving team conditions and bird welfare.

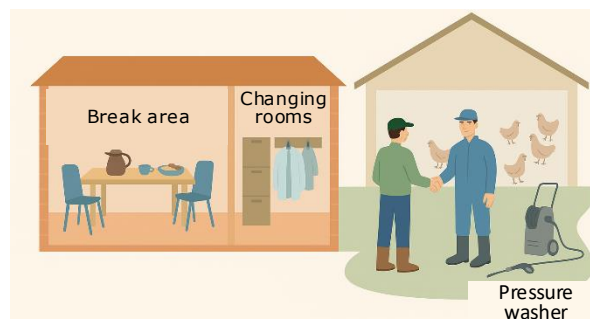


Figure 2. Illustrated example of a reception area set up for a catching team.

Costs and financial considerations: a farmer's example

The implementation of this reception system was achieved with limited financial investment: approximately €3,000 per barn, using mostly recycled materials and labor provided by the farmer. These costs covered the transformation of an unused annex building into a functional reception room, equipped with changing areas, seating, and coffee facilities. The farmer did not seek compensation for this investment, instead framing it as a gesture of respect toward the catching teams and as a way to build loyalty and long-term collaboration. This kind of informal investment fosters human sustainability on the farm and reflects a proactive commitment to both animal and human welfare.

Benefits of implementing the charter

- Reduced mortality, injuries, and carcass condemnations rates thanks to improved animal handling
- Lower stress levels in birds due to calm, well-prepared teams and smooth operations
- Improved working conditions that support team motivation, respect, and retention
- Better compliance with biosecurity protocols through clear guidance and adequate facilities
- Stronger cooperation and communication between farmers and catching teams
- Enhanced on-farm animal welfare and alignment with societal expectations
- Promotion of a culture of care, professionalism, and mutual respect across the production chain

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