

הלכות שחיטה

Simanim
8-10

3



סימן ח' - סעיף א'

Proper Size of Shechita Knife

אין "וְשַׁחַט" אלא
"וּמְשַׁךְ"

חולין ל, ב

The term "*v'shachat*" [lit. "he shall slaughter"] means **nothing other than: "he shall draw"** the knife across the animal's neck. *Chullin*, 30b

Knife must be long enough to preclude any need for pressing

Knife must be drawn across the throat and not pressed

סימן ח' - סעיף ב'

L'chatchila:

Length of knife: at least double the width of animal's neck
(including skin and spinal cord)



Allusion: "You should slaughter with this (בַּזָּה)"

Numerical value of 14 thumb-widths

X14 



סימן ח' - סעיף ב'

Knife shouldn't
be too long!

So that knife's weight
shouldn't apply pressure

B'dieved

If he says,
"I know I didn't press down"
Kosher

In pressing circumstances

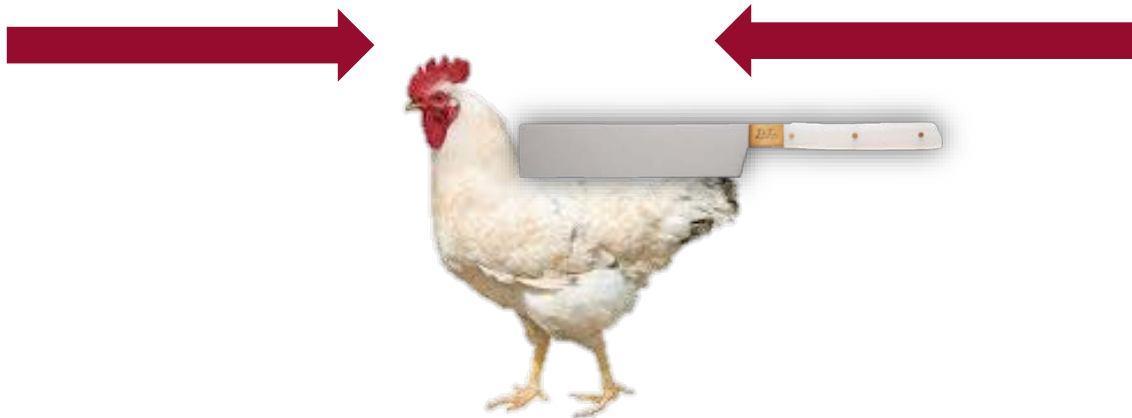
May be used even initially
If he is very careful

Match Asher: Knife shouldn't be heavier than the head's weight

סימן ח' - סעיפים ג'-ד'

L'chatchila

Backward motion & Frontward motion



B'dieved

Only one direction



Long knife



Kosher

Short knife



Invalid *min hatorah*

סימן ח' - סעיף ה'

Shechted with
long knife

Intention:
To shecht with both
frontward and
backward motions

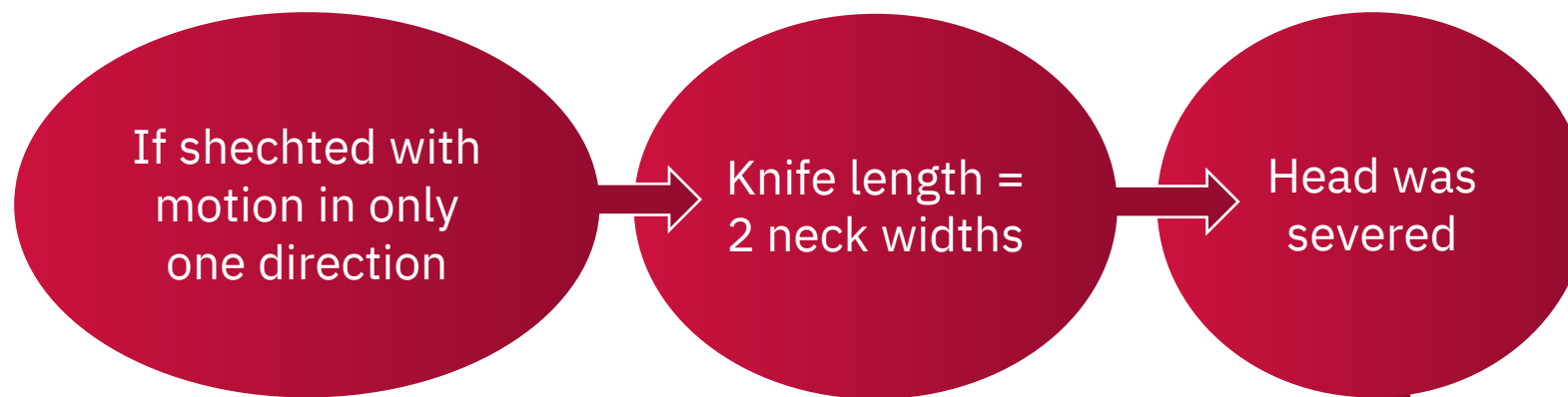
Outcome:
Shechting was
complete from just
frontward motion

No concern of derasa (pressing)
Shechting was quicker due to knife's sharpness

סימן ח' - סעיפים ו'-ז'

A small knife (slightly larger than one neck) may not have a point at its tip

It doesn't help to wrap it with cloth or sticking into wood
We are always concerned of piercing



We are concerned for derasa because spinal cord wouldn't break without pressure



סימן ט' – סעיף א'

Burning hot knife is forbidden

Why? Doesn't the sharpness cut before the heat burns?

This applies even if one is cautious to avoid this

We are concerned the knife burned the internal sides of the cut

View of Simla Chadasha: *Yad soledes*

View of Alter Rebbe: Red hot