



# IS MY DAMAGED CHICKEN KOSHER?

## Q&A with Rabbi Fishbane



### I FOUND A BROKEN DRUMSTICK IN MY CHICKEN (SEE PICTURE #1), CAN I EAT IT?

In most cases the chicken is kosher, and that includes the sample shown in Picture #1. [*Mashgichim* at the slaughterhouse are assigned to remove

those which are not acceptable.]

The general rule is that if there is broken bone or a significant bruise, the chicken is only not kosher if (a) it seems like the wound or break happened while the chicken was alive, (b) the wound is in the lower half of the drumstick, and (c) the swelling or bruising is very significant. If there is minimal bruising, it is likely that the break happened after the *shechitah* (when the chicken was flapping in the “cones” or being hung on the conveyor belt), and the chicken is kosher.



### WHAT ABOUT A PINKISH COLOR AT THE NARROW END OF THE DRUMSTICK (SEE PICTURE #2)?

If it is a light pinkish color – as is common – it is permitted even if the bone is broken, as this likely happened just after *shechitah*. If, however, the bone

is broken, and the coloring is a darker red or the color is spread over a large area, the chicken should not be eaten.

### ONE PIECE OF CHICKEN IN THE PACKAGE WAS SO BANGED UP THAT



### THE RABBI SAID I SHOULDN'T EAT IT (SEE PICTURE #3).

### WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER PIECES OF CHICKEN IN THAT PACK?

If they are separate pieces (not attached), they can be eaten, since these pieces are unlikely from the same chicken.

### WHAT IF IT WAS A WHOLE CHICKEN? I UNDERSTAND THAT I CANNOT EAT ANY PART OF THAT CHICKEN BUT WHAT ABOUT THE LIVER WHICH CAME WITH IT?

If the liver is in a bag, then it is unlikely to have come from that specific chicken, and it can be eaten.

### I ALREADY COOKED THE CHICKEN, DO I HAVE TO KASHER MY PAN AND OVEN?

You may well have to *kasher* your pan and oven, and should address that question to your Rabbi, who will weigh the different considerations.



### THE CHICKEN HAS A BRUISE IN IT WHICH IS RED (OR BLACK) (SEE PICTURE #4). CAN I EAT IT?

If there are no broken bones, then the chicken itself is ko-



sher; the bruise is blood which the salting did not fully remove, and that blood should not be eaten. You should cut out the bruise and can then consume the rest of the chicken.

**THERE SEEMS TO BE RED JUICE COMING OUT OF THE MEAT WHEN I BROIL IT. IS THAT BLOOD?**

No. That is called “tzir” which is not *halachically* “dam” (blood) and is permitted.

**THERE ARE BROWN OR PINK ITEMS ON THE INSIDE OF THE CHICKEN (NEAR THE RIBS) THAT I DON'T USUALLY SEE. ARE THOSE THE CHICKEN'S INTERNAL ORGANS? CAN I EAT THEM?**

Those may be the kidneys (brown) or lungs (pink) that the industrial “vacuum” missed, and they need to be removed. They should have been removed before *melichah* (salting) so as to allow the salt to have direct contact with the meat. You should remove them yourself, and the rest of the chicken can be eaten.