

HENS ON ALLOTMENTS

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Under the 1950 Allotment Act you are allowed to keeping hens on your allotment, as long as they are only for the use of the tenant and not used for business or profit. However, if your chickens are regarded as a nuisance or a health hazard, or their welfare is affected they can be removed. No cockerels are allowed.

A) REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION

- i. Tenants are required to make an application to Loughton Town Council (LTC) to keep hens on their allotment plot. Details of the number of hens and size and location of hen house and outdoor run must be provided. Personal contact details must be given as well as those of others who will be caring for your chickens during holidays, etc, so that they can be contacted if there is problem.
- ii. Tenants are responsible for the hen's welfare and must ensure they do not cause a nuisance to others. Please see Clause 7b) in the Allotment Tenancy Agreement.
- iii. The granting of permission is dependent on these conditions being met and guidelines followed.
- iv. Representatives of LTC have the right to inspect the hens at any time. If the Council has cause to investigate complaints of maltreatment, any costs incurred will be passed to the tenant for payment.
- v. The tenant's Allotment Tenancy Agreement will be terminated in the instance of failure to adhere to these guidelines and thus in breaching their tenancy agreement.

B) ANIMAL WELFARE

Housing

- i. Housing is important in ensuring the welfare of hens and should allow expression of natural behaviours.
- ii. Both the hen house and outdoor run must be regularly maintained to a good, tidy standard and free from obvious faults that may cause injury.
- iii. The structures must be sited a minimum of 3 metres from adjacent boundaries abutting residential properties to minimize potential nuisance.

Hen house

- iv. A fully enclosed shelter providing a minimum size of 2 square feet (0.2m²) per hen is required. The optimum permitted size will be 4 ft by 3ft. The maximum permitted size of building structure on an allotment is 6ft x 8ft and only one structure per allotment plot.
- v. The fully enclosed shelter must provide the following:
 - Protection from predators.
 - Clean dry bedding material to absorb moisture and odour (e.g. wood shavings or straw).
 - Warmth during colder months and shade during summer. As a general guide the aim should be to achieve a temperature range of 10°C - 20°C.
 - Be draught free, but have adequate ventilation.
 - Perches for sleeping, approximately 305cm wide with rounded corners to enable the hens to grip.
 - Nest boxes for laying eggs.

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Outdoor Run

- vi. A Fully enclosed caged run that provides a minimum size of 4 sq ft (0.4m²) per Hen, providing the hens with plenty of space to dig, dust themselves and flap their wings. The optimum size is 6ft x 8ft.
- vii. There should be an additional means of overhead shelter e.g. shrubs to provide hens with protection from direct sunlight, strong wind and driving rain.
- viii. The structure must be allowed periods of rest to allow the ground to recover.
- ix. The total area of the hen house and run should not exceed more than 10% of the total allotment plot area although the maximum permitted size will be 10ft x 12ft (3m x 3.6m).

Food & Water

- x. Hens should have continuous and plentiful access to cool, clean and fresh water, feed appropriate to the age and species of hen and in sufficient quantities as well as insoluble grit to aid digestion.
- xi. Food stuffs must be stored so they are kept clean, tidy, and properly protected from rodents and other pests.

Health and Welfare

- xii. The allotment tenant is responsible for ensuring that their hens are free from distress, pain, injury and disease.
- xiii. Hens must be vaccinated prior to arrival or at 6 weeks old.
- xiv. Hens will need regular worming (twice a year) and clipping of claw nails to maintain them in a good healthy condition.
- xv. Hens must be checked regularly for lice and the houses treated for Red Mite.
- xvi. Any health serious or longstanding or contagious problems must be reported to LTC immediately as well as details on the treatment being received and notification when the problem has cleared.
- xvii. The hen house and run should be cleaned a minimum of once a week or more frequently as necessary.
- xviii. Tenants are responsible for the removal of all arisings from the site. Soiled bedding may not be composted anywhere on the allotment site.
- xix. Poultry need companionship and should be kept in groups of two.
- xx. The maximum number of hens permitted per allotment tenant should be 5.

4 Nuisance to Neighbours & Cleanliness

- xxi. Provided the above guidelines on housing, food and water and health are followed, hens should not become a nuisance to others. (See Clause 7b of the Allotment Tenancy Agreement).

5 Breeding & Profit

- xxii. Allotment tenants are not permitted to breed hens on the allotment site nor profit from the sale of produce (See Clause 5 of the Allotment Tenancy Agreement)