



GUIDELINES FOR KEEPING POULTRY ON ALLOTMENTS 2021

1. INTRODUCTION

Allotment Tenants may keep poultry on allotments, but not cockerels as under the Allotments Act 1950. This is on the condition that they are not *“kept in such a place or in such a manner as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance.”*

2. REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION

- 2.1. Tenants are required to make an application to CTC to keep poultry on their allotment plot (max 10 per tenant). Details of the number of poultry and sizes and location of the poultry house and outdoor run must be given. Personal contact details must be provided as well as those of others who will be caring for your poultry during holidays etc so that we may contact them if there is a problem (see attached Request for Permission to Keep Poultry on Allotments application form).
- 2.2. Tenants are responsible for the poultry welfare and must ensure they do not cause a nuisance to others. Please see Clause 3.8 in the Allotment Tenancy Agreement.
- 2.3. The granting of permission is dependent on CTC conditions being met and guidelines followed.
- 2.4. Representatives of CTC have the right to inspect the poultry at any time. If the Council has cause to investigate complaints of maltreatment, any costs incurred will be passed to the tenant for payment.
- 2.5. 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.

3. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

3.1. Housing

3.1.1. Housing is important in ensuring the welfare of poultry and should allow expression of natural behaviours.

3.1.2. Both the poultry house and outdoor run must be regularly maintained to a good, tidy standard and free from obvious faults that may cause injury.

3.1.3. Poultry House

3.1.4. A fully enclosed shelter providing a minimum size of 2 sq.ft (0.2m²) per poultry is required. The fully enclosed shelter must provide the following:

3.1.4.1. Protection from predators.

3.1.4.2. Clean dry bedding material to absorb moisture and odour (eg wood shavings or straw).

3.1.4.3. Warmth during colder months or shade during Summer. As a general guide the aim should be to achieve a temperature range of 10°C – 20°C

3.1.4.4. Be draught free but have adequate ventilation.

3.1.4.5. Perches for sleeping, approximately 305cm wide with rounded corners to enable them to grip.

3.1.4.6. Nest boxes for laying eggs.

3.1.5. Outdoor Run

3.1.5.1. Fully enclosed caged run that provides a minimum size of 4 sq.ft (0.4m²) per poultry, providing the poultry with plenty of space to dig, dust themselves and flap their wings. The optimum size is 5ft x 8ft.

3.1.5.2. There should be an additional means of overhead shelter eg shrubs to provide poultry with protection from direct sunlight, strong wind and driving rain.

3.1.5.3. The structure must be allowed periods of rest to allow the ground to recover.

3.2. Food and Water

- 3.2.1.** Poultry should have continuous and plentiful access to cool, clean and fresh water, feed appropriate to the age and species of the poultry and in sufficient quantities as well as insoluble grit to aid digestion.
- 3.2.2.** Poultry food must be sealed in rat-proof bins or tins (e.g. metal) and stored securely.
- 3.2.3.** Remove poultry feeders and excess food at night or use a rat proof treadle feeder.

3.3. Health

3.3.1. Welfare

- 3.3.1.1.** The allotment tenant is responsible for ensuring that their poultry are free from distress, pain, injury and disease.

3.3.2. Preventative and/or veterinary treatment

- 3.3.2.1.** Poultry must be vaccinated prior to arrival or at 6 weeks old.
- 3.3.2.2.** Poultry will need regular worming (twice a year) and clipping of claw nails to maintain them in a good healthy condition.
- 3.3.2.3.** Poultry must be checked regularly for lice and the houses treated for Red Mite.
- 3.3.2.4.** Any health serious or longstanding or contagious problems must be reported to CTC immediately as well as details of the treatment being received and notification when the problem has cleared.

3.3.3. Sanitation

- 3.3.3.1.** The poultry house and run should be cleaned a minimum of once a week or more frequently as necessary.
- 3.3.3.2.** Tenants are responsible for the removal of all arisings from the site. Soiled bedding must be composted anywhere on the allotment site.

3.3.4. Number of Poultry

- 3.3.4.1.** Poultry need companionship and should be kept in groups of two.
- 3.3.4.2.** For Tenants taking a plot from 1 April 2019, the maximum number of poultry permitted per Tenant is 10.

4. Nuisance to Neighbours & Cleanliness

- 4.1.** Provided the above guidelines on housing, food, water and health are followed, poultry should not become a nuisance to others. (See Clause 3.8.2 of the Allotment Tenancy Agreement).

5. Breeding and Profit

- 5.1.** Allotment tenants are not permitted to breed poultry on the allotment site nor profit from the sale of produce (See Clause 3.2.2 of the Allotment Tenancy Agreement).