

CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL

Keeping hens on Allotments

There are certain minimum requirements with regard to keeping hens on allotments and we would ask you please to read the following and complete the Agreement details which are incorporated within this document, a copy of which will be attached to your Allotment Agreement.

When committing to the keeping of hens on an allotment, there is a duty of care by the Plot Holder to be responsible for the hens' well-being. As part of this Agreement, the Plot Holder will need to obtain a copy of the Code of Recommendation for the Welfare of Domestic Fowls from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and these can be obtained via <http://www.defra.gov.uk/food-farm/animals/welfare/on-farm/poultry-welfare/>

Housing of Hens

The henhouse – This should be fully enclosed, 15 inches (38cm) above the ground and provides a minimum size of 2 square feet (0.2m²) per hen. The optimum size would be 4 feet by 3 feet (121.92cm x 91.440cm). The weatherproof henhouse needs to provide :

1. Protection from predators
2. Clean, dry bedding such as wood shavings and/or straw
3. Warmth during winter months and shade during summer months
4. Adequate ventilation but draught-free.
5. Perches for sleeping, approx. 3-5cms wide with rounded corners for grip
6. Nest box for laying eggs placed in the darkest area of the house.
7. Easy accessibility for cleaning and servicing etc.

The maximum permitted size of a building structure on an allotment is 6ft x 8ft (182.88cm x 243.84cm) and only one structure per plot. The structure and hen run should not take up more than 10% of the plot size.

The minimum number of hens is 2 and the maximum is 6 – no cockerels allowed.

Outdoor Run – The outdoor run needs to be fully enclosed and provide a minimum size of 4 square feet (0.4m²) per hen. Hens need plenty of space to dig, dust themselves and flap their wings. The optimum size will be 6ft x 8ft (182.88cm x 243.84cm). Ideally, the wire netting enclosure should be inset into the ground by approximately 1 foot (30cm) to discourage foxes from burrowing under.

Feeding etc

The hens need to be checked twice a day with adequate feed in a vermin proof container. Water should be provided in clean containers. Hens can suffer from red mite and the henhouse needs to be regularly checked for this and cleaned out at least once a week. The hens also need to be regularly wormed. Please note that the water supply to the allotment site is turned off between late October and March and therefore, alternative means of providing water for the hens during this period needs to be considered and implemented.

Hen grit should be provided on a regular basis as this is necessary to digestion.

Siting of henhouse

If your allotment is close to a site boundary, the henhouse is required to be at least 3 metres away from residential neighbours. With regard to the siting of the henhouse/run on the allotment, this is best discussed with the Property Manager prior to installation.

Allotment tenants have a duty, as part of their Allotment Agreement, not to cause a nuisance to other allotment tenants and should take all reasonable measures to minimise potential nuisance.

Other matters

It is not permitted to breed hens on the allotment site and it is not permitted to profit from the sale of produce from the allotment as described by the statutory Allotment Act.

The Plot Holder will be responsible for the removal from site of all waste with regard to the hens.

The Plot Holder will be responsible for any damage caused to other plots should any of the hens escape.

The Plot Holder should put their name and telephone number on the outside of the henhouse for contact in case of emergency.

On no account are hens to be abandoned by the Plot Holder. In the event that hens are abandoned, any associated costs involved in the removal of the hens will be sought from the Plot Holder concerned.

For completion by the Plot Holder :

Number of hens to be kept :

I hereby agree to abide by the terms and conditions stated in this document.

Signed: Print Name:

Site: Plot No:

Contact Telephone No: Emergency Contact No:.....

Signed on behalf of Chichester City Council:

Dated: