



**Tatworth and Forton Parish Council**  
**Animals on allotments policy**

**Introduction**

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 requires that any person responsible for any vertebrate animal must take all reasonable steps to ensure they meet all of its welfare needs to the extent required by good practice. Many of the conditions in this document are based on this act.

Ultimate responsibility for any animals kept on the allotment lies with the tenant. The Parish Council shall accept no responsibility to the animals or enclosure or any liability.

Under the Allotment Act 1950, only chickens and rabbits are allowed to be kept on the allotment site

**Terms and conditions for keeping Poultry on the allotment site**

Keeping poultry is a major commitment. They must be checked daily, fed and cleaned, and they need shutting in at night and letting out first thing in the morning. The house and run should be regularly maintained

As these terms and conditions are based on The Animal Welfare Act 2006, if the terms and conditions numbered 1-6 inclusive below cannot be adhered to then the tenant must not keep poultry on site.

- 1. No rooster or cockerels to be kept on the allotment site**
  - a) If young birds are to be kept they must be properly sexed before being kept on the allotment site.
- 2 A maximum of 5 Bantams or 3 full size hens per plot can be kept.**
- 3 A suitable environment must be provided which allows normal behaviour:**

- a) Suitable housing with a nesting area must be provided. This must be warm, dry and well ventilated. It must be regularly cleaned and the housing must be robust enough to be stable in high winds.
- b) Suitable bedding i.e. straw must be provided in the nesting area and must be kept clean and dry.
- c) An outside run of minimum 1m<sup>2</sup> per bird must be provided with access from the housing.
- d) The run must be secured from predators and rodents and it must not allow the birds to escape.
- e) The run should include shelter from sun and inclement weather.
- f) An area for dust bathing must be provided in the run.
- g) A suitable underfoot surface should be provided in the run i.e. pesticide free wood chippings.
- h) Hens are social animals and solitary birds must not be kept.
- i) Waste must either be removed from the site or composted on site.
- j) Eggs must be collected daily.
- k) Consider enriching the run area with perches, surfaces to scratch and things to peck etc. Busy, happy hens with adequate space tend to be problem free.
- l) No artificial lighting or heating to be used in the housing or nest area for the purposes of encouraging laying during times of short daylight.

#### **4 Animals needs to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease**

- a) Hens must be checked daily by the tenant.
- b) The tenant may appoint an agent who will be responsible in the tenant's absence.
- c) The tenant must register the hens with a vet.
- d) The hens must be vaccinated.
- e) Emergency contact details should be logged with the Clerk and on the allotment site so that any welfare issues can immediately be dealt with.
- f) Worming will be required particularly if birds are kept on the same ground for a prolonged period.
- g) The tenant shall regularly check for lice, mites and other health problems and treat birds as appropriate, contacting a vet if necessary.
- h) Insurance is advisable.
- i) Hens are sensitive to chemicals. Chemicals other than poultry specific ones must not be used in their vicinity.

- j) If the welfare of the birds is causing concern or it is considered the birds are being mistreated, then the RSPCA will be called and removal requested.

**5 A suitable diet must be provided**

- a) Continuous access to an adequate supply of clean, fresh drinking water must be provided and drinkers kept clean.
- b) During cold weather, numerous visits during the day will be required to keep drinking water free from ice. Likewise in hot weather several daily checks may be required to ensure water has not run short.
- c) A life-stage appropriate diet fed in ad lib quantities must be provided i.e. layers pellets for laying hens.
- d) Grit must be provided ad lib in a suitable container. Crushed oyster shell should also be considered.
- e) Feeders should be properly protected from rodents and other wild animals and kept clean. They must be protected from weather if placed outside.
- f) If feed and bedding are to be stored on site it must be properly protected from rodents and other wild animals.

**6 At the termination of the tenancy any structure relating to the keep of poultry must be removed from the plot by the tenant at the tenant's expense, and the plot turned over by the tenant ready for cultivation by an incoming tenant.**

Former commercial colony caged hens (known also as ex batts) may be kept on site and it is very rewarding to see the birds thrive. Please be aware because of their previous living conditions that these animals will require more care and attention than other birds, may be more vulnerable to health problems and some will have a short lifespan despite good care.

These guidelines may be reviewed and amended at any time and poultry keepers will be notified and given 28 days to comply.

I hereby agree to the above.

Signed ..... Name: .....

Plot Number ..... Date: .....