

Street & District Allotments Association



3.

The keeping of hens

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Rule 14 of the Association states:

The keeping of hens for non-business purposes is permitted to a maximum of 5 hens per allotment. Cock birds are not permitted. The agreement of the Committee is required before acquiring hens – terms and conditions apply (see separate leaflet) (*i.e. this leaflet*). The correct housekeeping for all live stock must be observed. **The allotment holder is totally responsible for the welfare of their birds.**

This leaflet lays out the minimum requirements of the Association before consent will be granted. It is NOT a definitive account of best practice nor of statutory regulations pertaining to the keeping of hens; in this regard allotment holders need to fully inform themselves. There are many sources of relevant & useful information e.g. www.keeping-chickens.me.uk www.omlet.co.uk/guide/chickens www.bhwt.org.uk (the British Hen Welfare Trust)

N.B. This list does not constitute a recommendation by the Association or its Committee. These sources of information are listed purely as examples of the many that are available.

S&DAA requirements BEFORE consent will be granted.

All of the following points must be addressed:

The welfare of the hens is important and the housing should allow expression of natural behaviours.

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

The structures must be sited a minimum of 3 meters from adjacent boundaries abutting residential properties to minimize potential nuisance.

It must be understood that all the following conditions must be in place, demonstrated to, and approved by, the inspecting committee member before any hens are introduced. It is not adequate to simply say what you intend to do.

The hen house must:

- Be a fully enclosed shelter providing a minimum size of 2 square feet (0.2m²) per hen. The optimum permitted size for 5 hens will be 4 ft by 3ft. Only one structure per allotment plot.
- Provide protection from predators.
- Provide clean dry bedding material to absorb moisture and odour (e.g. wood shavings or straw).
- Provide warmth during colder months or shade during summer.
- Be draught free but have adequate ventilation.

- Provide perches for sleeping, approx 3 to 5cm wide with rounded corners to enable them to grip.
- Provide nest boxes for laying eggs.

The outdoor run must meet these specifications:

It must be a fully enclosed (i.e. wire mesh on the base too) caged run that provides a minimum size of 4 square feet (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 giving approx 10 sq feet per bird.

There should be some additional means of overhead shelter e.g. shrubs or tarpaulin to provide the hens with protection from direct sunlight, strong wind and driving rain. Also to keep wild birds out at times of bird flu epidemics.

From time to time, at the request of the Association's Hen Officer, the structure should be moved to allow the ground to recover. (This has the added benefit of making the best use of the chicken manure and is a prudent measure against the risk of disease.)

Food & Water:

Hens should have continuous and plentiful access to cool, clean and fresh water.

Their feed must be appropriate to the age and species of hen and in sufficient quantities

They must be provided with insoluble grit to aid digestion.

Food stuffs must be stored so they are kept clean, tidy, and properly protected from rodents and other pests. Spillages must be cleaned up.



You are also reminded of Rule 15 of the Association which states: **Rats and vermin** are always a problem near chicken houses, please take precautions to avoid infestations. Should you have a problem with rats the Committee should be consulted. Please do not leave it until we receive a complaint from neighbouring homes.

Complaints / failure to observe the required standards:

Complaints from other allotment holders or members of the public about the conditions to which the hens are being kept and/or failure to observe the required standards of care may result in consent to keep hens being withdrawn.

If deemed necessary such complaints will be referred to the RSPCA for their final adjudication.

General Information

Officers of the Committee 2019:

Chairman: Brian Stanley, (Plot 5 Brooks Rd)
07966 521720

Treasurer: Peter Fry,
(Plot 16 Farm Lane) 01458 445383 / 07762 770389

Secretary: Julie Hillman, (Plot 9B Brooks Rd)
01458 446643

Membership Co-ordinator: Christine Mitchell,
(Plot 5 Farm Lane) 01749 670105
streetallotmentsmembership@gmail.com

You will find up to date contact details for the Committee Officers & your Site Representatives on your site notice board, our website & facebook page.

Also on the website you will find a copy of our Constitution, Tenancy Agreement, Rules and Minutes of Committee meetings.

www.streetallotments.co.uk

www.facebook.com/streetallotments

street.allotments@gmail.com

Please retain for future reference (issued Nov 2019)