

Woburn Sands and District Allotment Society Limited

Registered Office: Keens Shay, Keens & Co. Witan Court, Sovereign, Court 230 Upper 5th Street, Central Milton Keynes MK9 2HR.

Conditions required for the keeping of hens (not cockerels)

The following conditions are based on those provided by The Poultry Club of Great Britain and should be read in conjunction with the ByLaws of the Society, particularly ByLaw No. 15.

1. The plot holder keeping hens should be experienced in the overall keeping and management of poultry, particularly in respect of recognising distress or disease and taking appropriate remedial action. The plot holder will have obtained a copy of the Code of Recommendation for the Welfare of Domestic Fowls from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).
2. The accommodation should provide proper shelter from the elements and a means of exercise which may be extended by the provision of wire fenced runs. A means of access to the shelter must be available to the poultry at all times, except where cleaning and disinfection etc is being carried out. Any shelter should permit the stockperson to stand and inspect the birds therein. The accommodation will require cleansing and disinfection and all litter etc needs to be disposed of in secure containers or located well away from any shelter or run. Nest boxes, roosting areas and perches must be properly located. Floors shall be provided of wooded construction. All exercise runs shall be escape and predator proof.
3. Sufficient fresh air should be provided by means of doors or other apertures. Hens should be protected from draughts and it is recommended that the accommodation/shelter entry points due south. During hot weather, particularly warm humid conditions, all hens must have access to an exercise area. In certain cases shading may be required.
4. A means of artificial lighting must be provided, which is adequate to inspect all hens on the site. Hens must have access to a minimum of 8 hours daylight during the day.
5. Water must be available at all times and all equipment kept clean and in good order. The risk of drinking water freezing during winter months must be considered. Feed must be properly balanced for the hens and given in sufficient amounts to ensure the proper well-being of the animals. Feed MAY NOT be kept on the Allotment field.
6. No more than one quarter of a total plot may be used for the keeping of hens.
7. Hens must be able to stand, turn around and stretch their wings, and have sufficient space to perch or sit down without interference from other birds. The stocking rate will be not more than 7 hens/m².
8. Plans for dealing with fire must be made and a copy provided for the Committee. All inflammable materials i.e. straw, waste litter and empty bags, must be stored well away from the poultry accommodation and exercise areas. A means of controlling any small fire should be available and the plot holder's (and a second contact's) emergency telephone number and contact address known to all Committee members.
9. All birds must be inspected at least twice daily. The plot holder must allow the Society's

animal welfare representative to inspect the poultry at any time (but at least once each year), the plot holder will pay any charges involved in this inspection.

10. Any sick or injured birds must be removed immediately and treatment provided. The name and address of the Veterinary Surgeon must be known to the Committee. The cause of any disease or injury will be identified and remedial action taken. Any national disease prevention and/or control programmes must be adhered to. Dead birds must be disposed of in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Animal By-Products Regulations 2003.
11. The accommodation and associated equipment should be regularly cleaned and disinfected. It is advisable to destock sites and allow a minimum 7 days rest period. Only good quality litter originating from premises where poultry are not kept should be used.
12. Any container used to transport poultry should be clean, in good repair and of a type suitable for the type of bird to be moved. All birds must be handled with due care. The Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 1997 (as amended) lays down provisions with regard to the loading, transport and unloading of poultry.
13. Poultry may not be kept for the purpose of supplying persons other than the plot holder and his immediate household. The Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 (as amended) details the procedures to be followed when poultry are slaughtered. The Protection of Animal Act 1911 also requires that no animal shall be caused unnecessary suffering.
14. Where it is deemed necessary, in the interest of the welfare of any hens kept, the Committee may instruct the plot holder to effect improvements to the accommodation or overall management of a site. Notice will be served accordingly. In certain circumstances immediate rectification may be directed.
15. Land on which birds are kept may become 'fowl-sick'. The time this may take will depend on stocking rates, soil type and drainage. Muddy conditions lead to ill health and discomfort.
16. The owner of the hens will be responsible for any damage to other plots should they escape. The value of the damage will be assessed by the management committee.
17. In addition:
 - Precautions to protect against foxes, cats, rodents (especially rats) and other predators must be taken
 - No poultry may be kept for the purpose of fighting
 - No poultry may be kept within 50m of a dwelling
 - No poultry shall be a nuisance to residents and others who seek enjoyment from the environment in which they live or cultivate their plots.

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Agreement to keep Hens (not cockerels)

Name of plot holder _____

Plot number _____

Emergency contact details: _____

Second contact: _____

Area of hen accommodation: _____

Number of hens intended to be kept: _____

Name and contact details of Veterinary Surgeon _____

I agree to abide by the conditions as stated in this document.

Signed _____ plot holder

Date _____

Signed _____ on behalf of the Committee

Date _____