



# **Saltersgill Allotment Association**

***Founded 2014***

# **Livestock Guidance**

## **Introduction**

**This document is  
designed to provide  
guidance on how to  
care for your livestock**

## **Legislation**

Section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act of 2006, makes owners and keepers legally responsible for making sure that the welfare needs of their animals are met. Failure to comply with the act may result in criminal prosecution leading to a fine of up to £5,000 or imprisonment or both.\*

You should make sure that you are aware of the Animal Welfare Act and kept up to date with any changes made to the act as it develops.

The basic requirements of the act are to ensure that livestock:

- Have
  - A suitable place to live
  - A suitable diet
- Are
  - Able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns
  - Housed either with, or apart from, other animals as applicable
  - Protected from pain, injury, suffering and disease.

\*Correct at time of publication.

## **Introduction**

Under the terms of the Saltersgill Allotment Rules and Regulation Tenancy clause 17(2) and 17(4) tenants are permitted to keep a specific number of designated animals on their allotment plot. Permission should be sought in writing and will be confirmed in writing and conditions will be monitored during regular site inspections. A member must not have more than 24 animals on a single plot and no more than 48 in total. It goes without saying that bees are the exception to this rule. This is not a guidance this is a strict rule. The Committee reserves the right not to allow fowl on any allotment plot.

Members are entitled to keep the following animals:-

1. Chickens
2. Rabbits

3. Bees
4. Small mammals (ferrets and guinea pigs)
5. Birds (pigeons, doves, turkeys, ducks and geese)

Members who have livestock must register their livestock with the Committee every year. This information may be forwarded to the Council. Failure to do so will place the Member in serious breach of the Association rules and could result in termination of the member's tenancy.

We have a duty to ensure that all livestock are looked after to a high standard and that the keeping of the livestock does not interfere with other tenants activities. To help we have highlighted a number of areas where problems can arise.

### **Poultry Accommodation**

The minimum **internal** floor space per bird is 4 sq ft to a maximum floor space of 96 sq ft for one plot and 192 sq ft for two plots (i.e. an 8' x 6' shed will house 12 hens).

The minimum **external** floor space per bird is 2 sq ft to a maximum floor area of 48 sq ft for one plot and 96 sq ft for two plots (i.e. shed and external run will not cover more than 288 sq ft). Hens must have continuous daytime access to open air runs, which must be moved regularly to avoid 'fowl sick' or muddy conditions that could lead to ill health or discomfort.

The above dimensions should provide proper shelter from the elements and, as appropriate, 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 should be provided of wooden construction. All exercise runs shall be escape and predator proof.

### **Ventilation**

Sufficient fresh air should be provided by means of doors or other apertures. Birds should be protected from draughts and it is recommended that the accommodation/shelter entry points face due south. During hot weather, particularly warm humid conditions, all birds must have access to an exercise area. In certain cases shading may be required.

## **Health**

Important indications of health are alertness, bright eyes, good posture, vigorous movements if unduly disturbed, active feeding and drinking, clean healthy skin, shanks and feet. Attention should be paid to any departure from normal.

The early signs of ill health may include changes in food and water intake, in preening, in 'chatter' and in activity. There may also be a drop in egg production and changes in egg quality such as shell defects.

## **Lighting**

A means of artificial lighting must be provided, which is adequate to inspect all birds on the site. Poultry must have access to a minimum of 8 hours daylight during any day.

## **Feeding and Watering**

Water must be available at all times and all equipment kept clean and in good order. Feed should be kept in vermin proof containers. Any diet must be properly balanced for the type of bird and given in sufficient amounts to ensure the proper well being of the animals. The risk of drinking water freezing during winter months must be considered.



## **Stocking Rates**

All poultry must be able to stand, turn round and stretch their wings, and have sufficient space to perch or sit down without interference from other birds. The stocking rate will not only be dependent upon the ability of the stockperson, but also the type of poultry kept. All poultry must have access to an exercise area.

### **Fire Precautions**

Plans for dealing with fire should be made. All inflammable materials i.e. straw, waste, litter and empty bags must be stored well away from poultry accommodation and exercise areas. A means of controlling any small fire should be available and the stockperson's (or deputy) emergency telephone number and contact address known to the site operator and/or landowner.

### **Frequency of Inspection**

All birds must be inspected at least twice daily. The stockperson/site operator must allow the Council's animal welfare representative to inspect the poultry at any time.

### **Disease Control**

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 site operator.

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.

### **Cleaning and Disinfection**

The accommodation and associated equipment should be regularly cleaned and disinfected. It is advisable to de-stock sites and allow a minimum of 7 days rest period. Only good quality litter originating from premises where poultry are not kept should be used.

### **Transport**

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) (England) Order 2006** lays down provisions with regard to the loading, transport and unloading of poultry.

### **Improvement Notice**

Where it is deemed necessary that in the interest of the welfare of any bird kept on the site, 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.

### **General**

- The term “poultry” includes hens, table poultry (chickens), turkeys, geese, ducks and quail;
- Whatever the system, the most important factor is the welfare of the animals themselves;
- Comfort and shelter;
- Readily accessible fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour;
- Freedom of movement;
- The opportunity to exercise normal behavioural patterns;
- Light during the hours of daylight and a means of inspecting the birds at any other time;
- The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of vice, injury, parasitic infection and disease; and
- Emergency arrangements in the event of fire flood

Any queries regarding this document should be directed to:

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