

Syston Town Council

Allotment Poultry Keeping Terms and Conditions

1. Definitions

In these terms and conditions:

1.1: "The Council" means Syston Town Council, School Street, Syston, Leicester, LE7 1HN

1.2: "Allotment Tenant" means any tenant of the Council on Syston Allotments

1.3: "Allotment Land" means land managed by Syston Town Council as allotments in Syston

1.4: For the purposes of these regulations the terms 'hen' and 'poultry' mean the same thing. They mean chicken hens kept by the Allotment Tenant for the purpose of laying. For the avoidance of doubt the definition does not include Cockerels, other fowls, or birds. Cockerels may not be kept on any allotment land. Other forms of fowl or birds, including ducks or geese, may not be kept on Allotment land.

2. Review of Terms and Conditions

The Council reserves the right to review these terms and conditions as is reasonably required. Before making any changes the Council will give the Allotment Society notice of such changes in writing.

3. Tenancy

Any person keeping Hens on Allotment Land must be an Allotment Tenant and is bound by the allotment conditions of tenancy, and all relevant laws, in force for the time being, in addition to the terms and conditions contained in this agreement. The Allotment Tenant must also accept that all costs and expenses incurred for the keeping of Hens on any plot on Allotment Land will be met by the Allotment Tenant.

4. General

The most important consideration is the welfare of the Hens themselves. In meeting the basic physiological and behavioural needs of the Hens, the following must be provided by the Tenant under the **Animal Welfare Act 2006**:

- A suitable environment for the Hens
- A suitable diet and clean fresh water
- To allow the Hens to exhibit natural behaviour
- To house social Hens with others
- To protect Hens from pain, injury, suffering, and disease.

5. Welfare and Inspection

5.1: The Allotment Poultry Warden will advise as to how to provide suitable housing, feeding and watering, protection from predators, space required for a given number of Hens, etc. Tenants are referred to legislation in 5.4 for very detailed information on health and welfare of Hens.

5.2: If Allotment Tenants choose to keep Hens on their Allotment plot they must check on them daily (or ensure that a deputy does so if they are away or ill); provide competent care and management; and have the knowledge and skills to ensure the wellbeing of the Hens. In addition Allotment Tenants are expected to keep Hens under proper control to avoid disturbance to others.

5.3: An authorised representative of the Council has the right to inspect Hens on Allotment Land at any time. This includes a right of entry to the plot and any structures thereon. If the Council or the RSPCA has cause to investigate complaints of maltreatment, then the reasonable cost of vets or other official inspectors will be passed to the Allotment Tenant for payment.

5.4: Where details are required, legislation covering the health and care of hens can be found in the **Animal Welfare Act 2006** and in a new DEFRA '**Code of Practice for the Welfare of Laying Hens and Pullets**' which came into effect on 8th August 2018 and is available on gov.uk publications website. Most of the latter refers to large scale farming but some is relevant to small scale poultry keeping.

6. Termination

Failure to comply with these Terms and Conditions can lead to the tenancy of any allotment plot being terminated.