



**PITSTONE ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION
TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR KEEPING HENS**

If plot holders choose to keep hens on their plot they must check on them twice daily, provide competent care and management and have the knowledge and skills to ensure the well being of the hens.

Accommodation

This needs to provide proper shelter from the elements and, an appropriate means of exercise by the provision of a wire fenced run. A means of access to the shelter must be available to the poultry at all times, except when cleaning and disinfection is being carried out. The accommodation will require cleansing and disinfecting and all litter etc, needs to be either composted or disposed of in secure containers well within the boundaries of the plot, and where it is not required on the plot, it must be taken off site by the tenant. Nest boxes, roosting areas and perches must be properly located and all exercise runs escape and predator proof. Feeding and watering. Water must be made available at all times by the hen keeper and all equipment kept clean and in good order. Feed should be stored in vermin proof containers. Any diet must be properly balanced for the breed and given sufficient amounts to ensure the proper well being of the hens. The risk of drinking water freezing during cold weather must be considered.

Chickens are a social animal and need companionships and must be kept in small groups, minimum size group is two. All chickens must be able to stand, turn around and stretch their wings and have sufficient space to perch or sit down without interference from each other. A minimum of 1m2 of outside space per bird is recommended.

They also need space to make dust baths for themselves, which helps them to clean their plumage.

Health and Welfare

As stated above all birds must be inspected twice daily. The plot holder must allow the Chicken Welfare Officer or other person authorised by Pitstone Allotment Association to inspect the poultry at any time. Please be aware that the average life of a hen can be eight years and that the active egg laying period is generally only for two to three years, with production of eggs reducing in the third year. The plot holder should therefore consider what they intend to do with the hens once the hens are no longer productive. The hens must be health-checked regularly and the hen house treated for Red Mite. Any sick or injured birds must be removed immediately and treatment provided, the cause of any disease or injury identified and remedial action taken. Any national disease prevention and/or control programmes must be adhered to (e.g. Avian Flu). Dead birds must be disposed of in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Animal By-Products Regulations 2003. Land on which birds are kept may become “fowl sick”. Muddy conditions lead to ill health and discomfort. It is therefore important that the outdoor run is moved from time to time if the floor of the run is not replaced regularly.

On no account are hens to be abandoned by the plot holder

Pitstone Allotment Association– December 2018

..... Signature
{Chicken Welfare Officer
Pitstone Allotment Association }

..... Dated

..... Signature of tenant

..... Dated

