

## **CODE OF PRACTICE FOR KEEPING HENS ON THE ALLOTMENT**

### **1. Keeping your Hens on the Allotment**

1.1 You must not keep any cockerels on the Allotment.

1.2 You may only keep hens on the Allotment for the purpose of providing eggs for consumption for yourself and your family. You are not allowed to keep hens on the Allotment for the purpose of carrying on any trade or business (whether by providing eggs for sale, barter or distribution).

1.3 You must register your hens with the Council by notifying the Council in writing of the number of birds being kept on the Allotment.

1.4 You must comply with the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

1.5 You must ensure that you have the necessary knowledge and skills to ensure the well-being of your hens.

1.6 You must abide by any restrictions imposed by DEFRA to prevent the spread of disease such as Avian Flu.

### **2. Accommodation for your Hens**

2.1 You must provide a fully enclosed Hen House to accommodate your hens.

This must provide year round shelter from adverse weather and provide adequate shade and ventilation.

2.2 Your Hen House must provide:-

2.2.1 Sleeping accommodation which provides a minimum of 0.125 square metres floor area for each hen.

2.2.2 Each bird should have 20cm of perch space for each hen to stand on while they sleep (approximately 3cms to 5cms wide) with rounded edges to enable them to grip,

2.2.3 A nesting box filled with wood shavings or other suitable material for each hen to lay eggs.

2.3 You must provide a covered area for the hens to move around in during the day. This should be a fully enclosed outdoor caged exercise space that provides a minimum of 1 square metre for each hen. There should be plenty of space for your hens to dig, dust themselves and flap their wings. If allowed under the prevailing Avian Flu restrictions at the time, you may provide an additional fenced exercise area to which the birds may be given access. Consideration should be given to the provision of shade and water in this area.

2.4 You must ensure that your chicken coop is predator proof. You must use wire mesh fencing all the way around and above the coop and fix wooden boards to the base of the fence.

2.5 You must maintain the Hen House and Outdoor Run in good state of repair and in a safe condition for your hens.

2.6 You must regularly check the Hen House and Outdoor Run to make sure they are secure.

### **3. Care of your Hens**

3.1 You must provide dry clean bedding material for your hens to absorb moisture and odour (for example wood shavings or straw).

3.2 You must clean the Hen House and Outdoor Run at least once every week and put out fresh bedding.

3.3 You must ensure that your hens at all times have a continuous and plentiful supply of clean and fresh water. This must be provided in a container which your hens cannot step in or knock over. When any water supply to the allotment field is turned off, you must ensure that you are still able to comply with this provision.

3.4 You must provide the hens with a regular supply of feed, appropriate to the age and species of hen and sufficient for their nutritional needs.

3.5 You must provide the hens with a regular supply of grit to aid digestion, sufficient for their needs.

3.6 You must not feed chickens with waste food from your kitchen (including vegetable scraps). This is forbidden by DEFRA.

3.7 You must ensure that your hens are checked at least once each day and

must provide competent care and management of your hens.

#### **4. Health**

4.1 You must ensure the welfare of your hens, including arranging for your hens to have all necessary treatments for their health and well-being, including worming, nail and wing clipping, lice and mite treatment.

4.2 You must ensure that all hens kept on the Allotment are vaccinated.

4.3 You must remove all sick or injured hens from the Allotment and seek veterinary treatment for them without delay.

#### **5. Avoiding Problems**

5.1 You must store all feed so that it is kept clean, tidy and protected from pests. You must store all feed in rat proof containers.

5.2 To minimise rat problems, you must ensure that all feeders are sufficiently raised above the ground level and you must not scatter foodstuffs. To avoid creating rat runs, you must avoid storing piles of materials on the Allotment such as stacked timber.

5.3 If you lay rat traps, you must ensure that these are regularly checked and maintained and are of a recognised standard to avoid trapping any other animal or bird.

5.4 You must take all reasonable measures necessary to avoid causing any nuisance arising from the keeping of your hens on the Allotment