



Fleetwood Town Council

Onward to a Better Future

Policy for keeping Hens on an Allotment

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Allotment tenants may keep hens on their allotment plot, but not cockerels, as under the Allotment Act 1950. This is on the condition that they are not *'kept in such a place or in such a manner as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance'*.

2. Registration and Inspection

- 2.1. Tenants must register within one month of keeping poultry at any premises in England or Wales, this is a legal requirement. [Register as a keeper of less than 50 poultry or other captive birds - GOV.UK](#)
You must inform Fleetwood Town Council (FTC) of registration.
- 2.2. Tenants must inform FTC if wish to keep hens on their allotment. FTC require the details of the number of hens and the size of the hen house and outdoor run (see appendix). The tenant must also provide full contact details of individual that will care for your hens if absent for a prolonged period of time.
- 2.3. Tenants are responsible for their hen's welfare and must ensure they do not cause a nuisance.
- 2.4. Representatives of FTC have the right to inspect the hens at any time. If FTC has cause to investigate complaints of maltreatment any costs incurred will be passed to the tenant for payment.
- 2.5. The tenants' allotment tenancy agreement will be terminated in the instance of failure to adhere to these guidelines and thus in breaching their tenancy agreement.



Fleetwood Town Council

Onward to a Better Future

3. Animal Husbandry

3.1. Housing – General.

3.1.1 Housing is important in ensuring the welfare of hens and should allow expression of natural behaviours.

3.1.2 Both the hen house and outdoor run must be regularly maintained to a good, tidy standard and free from obvious faults that may cause injury.

3.2. Housing – Hen House

3.2.1. A fully enclosed shelter providing a minimum size of two square feet (0.2 m²) per hen is required. The optimum size will be 4ft x 3ft. The maximum permitted size of building size structure on allotment is 8ft x 6ft and only one structure is permitted per allotment plot.

3.2.2. The fully enclosed shelter must provide the following:

- Protection from predators.
- Clean, dry bedding material to absorb moisture and odour (e.g. wood shavings or straw).
- Warmth during colder months or shade during the summer. As a general guide, the aim should be to achieve a temperature range of 10°C - 20°C.
- Be draught free but have adequate ventilation.
- Perches for sleeping – approximately 30.5 cm wide with rounded corners to enable hens to grip.
- Nest boxes for laying eggs.

3.2.3. A fully enclosed cage run that provides a minimum size of four square feet (0.4m²) per hen, providing the hens with plenty of space to dig, dust themselves and flap their wings.



Fleetwood Town Council

Onward to a Better Future

3.3. Food and water

3.3.1. Hens should have continual and plentiful access to cool, clean and fresh water, feed appropriate to the age and species of the hen and in sufficient quantities as well as insoluble grit to aid digestion.

3.3.2. Food must be stored so it is kept clean, tidy and properly protected from rodents and other pests.

3.4. Health and Welfare

3.4.1. The allotment tenant is responsible for ensuring that their hens are free from distress, pain, injury and disease.

3.5. Prevention and/or Veterinary Treatment

3.5.1. Hens must be vaccinated prior to arrival or at six weeks old.

3.5.2. Hens will need regular worming (twice a year) and clipping of claws, nails to maintain them in a good healthy condition.

3.5.3. Hens must be checked regularly for lice and the houses treated for Red Mite.

3.5.4. Any serious health or long-standing or contagious problems must be reported to FTC immediately as well as details on the treatment being received and notification when the problem has cleared.

3.6. Sanitation

3.6.1. The hen house and run should be cleaned a minimum of once a week or more frequently if necessary.

3.6.2. The allotment tenant will be responsible for the removal of all arisings and waste material including material used for bedding



Fleetwood Town Council

Onward to a Better Future

from the allotment land. Any soiled bedding must not be composted anywhere on the allotment site. Any deceased hens should be immediately removed from the allotment site.

4. Livestock numbers

- 4.1. Poultry need companionship and should be kept in groups of two or more.
- 4.2. The maximum number of hens permitted per allotment tenant will be five.

5. Nuisance to Neighbours and Cleanliness

- 5.1. Provided the above guidelines on housing, food and water and health are followed, hens should not become a nuisance to others.

6. Breeding and profit

- 6.1. Allotment tenants are not permitted to breed hens on the allotment site nor profit from the sale of produce.

7. Withdrawal of consent

- 7.1. FTC may withdraw permission, giving 14 days' notice to remove hen if:
 - The allotment tenant contravenes any condition set out above.
 - The allotment tenant contravenes any condition of the allotment tenancy agreement.
 - Substantiated information, regarding unsatisfactory consequences of the keeping hens is received that requires a review of the arrangements.

Any costs resulting from the withdrawal of consent shall be borne by the allotment tenant.



Fleetwood Town Council

Onward to a Better Future

Appendix 1 – Allotment Poultry

Name	
Address	
Contact Number	
Plot Number	
Size of hen house and outdoor run	
Number of hens	
Vets' business name, address and contact number	
Contact name and number of individual who will look after your hens if absent (e.g. on holiday, illness or accident).	

I have read and agree to comply with Fleetwood Town Council's poultry-keeping conditions.

Name:

Signature:

Date: