



Lyng Parish Council - Regulations for keeping chickens and Ducks on allotment plots

INTRODUCTION

Under the Allotments Act 1950, Allotment Tenants may keep hens on allotments, 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”*.

REGISTRATION & INSPECTION

Tenants are required to make an application to Lyng Parish Council to keep hens and/or ducks on their allotment plot. Details of the number of hens/ducks and size and location of the house/s and outdoor run must be given. A maximum of 10 birds may be kept per plot subject to welfare conditions being met. Personal contact details must be clearly displayed on the plot and given to the Parish Council (as well as the contact details of others who will be caring for your birds during holidays etc.) so that they can be contacted if there is problem.

Any person keeping chickens / ducks on allotment land must be an allotment tenant and is bound by the allotment tenancy agreement in addition to adhering to these regulations. Tenants are responsible for their birds' welfare and must ensure their birds do not cause a nuisance to others.

The granting of permission is dependent on set conditions being met and guidelines followed.

Representative of Lyng Parish Council have the right to inspect the hens at any time. If the Council has cause to investigate complaints of maltreatment, any costs incurred will be passed to the tenant for payment.

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.

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 requires that tenants • provide a suitable environment for the birds

- provide a suitable diet and fresh water
- allow the birds to exhibit normal behaviour
- House social birds with others
- protect them from pain, injury, suffering and disease

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Housing

Housing is important in ensuring the welfare of the hens / ducks and should allow expression of natural behaviours. Both the housing and outdoor run must be regularly maintained to a good, tidy standard and free from obvious faults that may cause injury.

The birds must be provided with a fully roofed shed giving shelter from cold, direct sunshine and extremes of weather, with clean bedding of straw or wood shavings and adequate ventilation and warmth. Hens require roosting perches and a dry place to dust bathe.

The housing must provide;

- Warmth during colder months or shade during 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. Clean dry bedding material to absorb moisture and odour (e.g. wood shavings or straw).
- Provide perches for hens to sleep, approximately 305cm wide with rounded corners to enable them to grip.
- Nest boxes for laying eggs.
- No more than three birds per square metre of the housing.

The area given over to the birds must be protected from predators such as foxes by suitable fencing around the shed and outside area.

Outdoor Run

A fully enclosed caged run that provides a minimum space of one square meter per bird, providing the birds with plenty of space to dig, dust themselves and flap their wings must be provided.

There should be an additional means of overhead shelter e.g. shrubs to provide hens with protection from direct sunlight, strong wind and driving rain.

The area must be allowed periods of rest to allow wet, muddy or barren areas to recover.

Food & Water

Hens / Ducks should have continuous and plentiful access to cool, clean and fresh water. Fresh water must be provided and changed daily. The area around ducks' water troughs is likely to get muddy, so these should be moved frequently.

In addition to drinking water Ducks should have access to fresh water for bathing / swimming. This water should be changed on a regular basis.

Feed appropriate to the age and species of bird should be provided in sufficient quantities as well as insoluble grit to aid digestion.

Food stuffs must be stored so they are kept clean, tidy, and properly protected from rodents and other pests (see guide to preventing rats on the allotment)

Health & Welfare

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

Hens must be vaccinated prior to arrival or at 6 weeks old.

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

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

Any health serious or longstanding or contagious problems must be reported to Lyng Parish Council immediately as well as details on the treatment being received and notification when the problem has cleared.

Tenants must adhere to any rules /restrictions imposed by Government Chief Veterinary Officers such as those imposed following Avian Flu outbreak and are responsible for checking and implementing any regulations.

Sanitation

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

Tenants are responsible for the safe composting of soiled bedding on their allotment plot.

Nuisance to Neighbours & Cleanliness

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

Breeding & Profit

Allotment tenants are not permitted to breed hens / ducks on the allotment site nor profit from the sale of produce but a small amount of surplus eggs may be sold.