

**BISHOPS STORTFORD TOWN COUNCIL
POLICY FOR ALLOTMENTS IN BISHOPS STORTFORD
GUIDELINES FOR KEEPING HENS ON ALLOTMENTS**



INTRODUCTION

Allotment holders have a statutory right to keep hens or rabbits on allotments **BUT NOT** cockerels under the Allotments Act 1950. **Ducks, geese and other birds will not be permitted.** There is a separate policy for the keeping of bees and rabbits.

The maximum number of hens permitted per allotment tenant is five and the minimum number two.

The tenant will be responsible for the removal of all waste from the allotment site.

REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION

Allotment tenants are required to register livestock with Bishops Stortford Town Council, and meet the minimum standards in these guidelines.

If tenants choose to keep hens on their allotment they must check on them daily, provide competent care and management and have the knowledge and skills to ensure the well being of the hens. In addition, tenants are expected to keep them under proper control to avoid disturbance to others.

Representatives of Bishops Stortford Town Council or Bishops Stortford Allotment & Garden Association have the right to inspect the hens at any time. If the Council has cause to investigate complaints of maltreatment, costs of vets or other official inspections will be passed to the tenant for payment.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Hens require feed of a type appropriate to the age and species of hen and insoluble grit to aid digestion, fed in sufficient quantities, and sufficiently frequently to maintain them in good health and to satisfy their nutritional needs.

Foodstuffs should be stored in clean and tidy receptacles, properly protected from rodents and other pests. It is not permitted for foodstuffs to be scattered and an animal control feeding station is advised as an example of good practice.

HEALTH

The Allotment tenant will be held responsible for ensuring that their hens are free from distress, pain, injury and disease. Appropriate preventative and/or veterinary treatment should be available at all times. The tenant should ensure that the hens are vaccinated prior to arrival, or at 6 weeks old. The hens will need regular worming (twice a year) and clipping of claw nails to maintain them in a good healthy condition. They should be checked regularly for lice and the houses treated for Red Mite.

SANITATION

In order to maintain healthy hens and reduce odour problems, the henhouse and run should be cleaned a minimum of once a week or more frequently as necessary. Poultry kept on the same ground for more than a month will need regular worming.

NUSIANCE TO NEIGHBOURS AND CLEANLINESS

Allotment tenants have a duty as part of the Allotment Tenancy Conditions not to cause a nuisance to others. In the keeping of hens on an allotment plot, tenants should take all reasonable measures to minimise potential nuisances.

Provided the hens are kept healthy and in clean conditions and food stuffs are stored as advised above, the keeping of hens should not become a nuisance to others.

HENS FOR PROFIT

Allotment tenants are not permitted to profit from the sale of produce, or breed hens on the allotment site.

NOTE

Failure to adhere to the above guidelines may result in a breach of tenancy conditions and termination of the allotment tenancy.