



## LIVESTOCK POLICY

### Introduction

This policy has been produced to explain to Plotolders what Livestock may or may not be kept on the allotments operated by Hart Allotments\*.

### Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, Livestock means all animals including bees.

### Policy Statements

No livestock except those specifically mentioned in the Allotment Act 1950 will be considered by Hart Allotments. Any tenant interested in keeping livestock at the site should express their interest, in writing, to the Association.

Although the Allotment Act 1950 permits the keeping of hens and rabbits, the Association would discourage the keeping of such livestock on the allotments. Since 1950, animal welfare has become a prominent issue and HA would have to be mindful of the conditions under which any livestock be kept. HA also has to take into consideration the proximity of the surrounding area with regards to the encouragement of foxes, rats, etc. These considerations should be viewed in conjunction with the three statutory provisos attached to the keeping of livestock on an allotment, namely that they are not to be kept in such a manner as to be prejudicial to health, do not create a nuisance to others and do not affect the operation of any other law such as animal welfare legislation.

### Beekeeping

This policy is based on a risk assessment and follows guidance provided by the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners. Bees are beneficial for pollination of plants and Hart Allotments are happy to allow beekeeping subject to following conditions:

- Any tenant wishing to locate hives on a Hart Allotments site must have written permission from the Hart Allotments, which will need to be satisfied about the exact location of the hive/s and the competence level of the beekeeper.
  - The beekeeper must be a member of the British Bee Keepers' Association via a local association and should have third-party liability insurance to cover any possible claim that may occur. Evidence of membership and third-party liability insurance must be made available on request.
  - When positioning beehives, arrangements should be made so that the flightpath of the bees when leaving the hive is above head height of neighbouring plots. Bees operate on instinct and will attack and sting in defence of the hive. Placing hives in a place that only the bee keeper can approach
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- No more than four hives will be allowed per plot with the addition of a nucleus hive as and when required. When considering new requests, the Hart Allotments Association will take account of the number and location of existing hives. Evidence suggests a maximum of three hives per acre is considered desirable.

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\* Hart Allotments Ltd is an Industrial & Provident Society Reg No 32194R



- New colonies of bees should be obtained from a source where the temperament of the parent colony is known to be gentle. If a colony becomes aggressive, the beekeeper must take appropriate action, either re-queening, or moving the colony to an alternative site away from the allotments.
- All beekeepers on Hart Allotments sites must maintain their colonies in good state, carrying out regular inspections, practising swarm control and disease prevention and management (eg regular treatment against varroa). National regulations regarding notifiable diseases (eg European and American Foul Brood) apply. It is recommended that beekeepers register with BeeBase, run by Defra's National Bee Unit and providing free access to the regional bee inspector and other resources.
- Before opening a hive, beekeepers must assess the local situation and alert anyone in the vicinity, if necessary waiting for a more appropriate time. Beekeepers should always assess their own safety requirements and take appropriate measures, wearing protective clothing and suitable footwear.
- Non-compliance with this policy may result in a request to remove hives from an allotment site. All Hart Allotments members will be reminded via the Newsletter and website that bee hives are located on some allotments and should therefore take due precautions, such as staying clear of hives, especially when the bee keeper is at work. Anyone at risk from bee venom is advised to carry necessary first aid items (eg anti-histamine spray, EpiPen).

Further information and advice is available from the British Beekeepers Associations at [bbka.org.uk](http://bbka.org.uk)

## Dogs

No dogs shall be allowed on site unless they remain adequately supervised, for example by being kept on the lead, or are suitably tethered so as not to cause a nuisance to other tenants or their plots. Any faeces must be removed by the plot holder and disposed of off site.

## Policy Implementation/ Enforcement

HA will appoint a member of the Management Committee to oversee this policy.