



## LIVESTOCK POLICY

### Introduction

This policy has been produced to explain to Plotholders 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.

### Keeping of Hens

For those wishing to apply to keep hens on the allotment please complete Appendix A and return it to the Secretary.

Tenants wishing to keep hens on the allotment site must adequately show that they have considered their neighbours, any other allotment rules in force, national legislation and animal welfare taking into consideration the 5 freedoms of animal welfare developed by the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC). These state that, at all times, individuals have a duty of care to ensure that their animals are free:

- from hunger and thirst
- from discomfort
- from pain, injury or disease
- to express normal behaviour
- from fear and distress

The size of **roosting area** is restricted to the size of the shed dimensions given in the buildings and constructions policy. Covered or uncovered **runs** are permitted. Consideration needs to be given to neighbours regarding the siting of the roosting and covered run areas to prevent shading on an adjoining neighbour's plot.

Plot holders are permitted to erect roosting areas in addition to having a shed and greenhouse on their plot if desired.

Applicants should support their application with appropriate plans or photographs.

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



For the benefit of other tenants Cockerels are not permitted.

The committee reserves the right to consult with advisors (such as vets etc.) in the vetting of this application and monitoring the condition of livestock.

HA will appoint a member of the Management Committee to ensure that the stipulated actions (in the appendix) are undertaken by the due dates. Regular monitoring of the site will be undertaken and if it is found that any of the actions are not undertaken to the satisfaction of the committee or its advisers the committee reserves the right to withdraw permission to keep livestock.

The committee reserves the right to withdraw permission to keep hens if any *complaints* (regarding increased vermin, smells, nuisance to other plot holders, animal welfare concerns) are considered valid by the committee or its advisers.

### 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.
- 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. In any situation that the committee deem assistance or advice from any external organization or professional is necessary, the costs of such consultation will be met by the plot holder. The plot holder will be kept informed of such actions from the outset.

## Appendix A



Application form to keep hens on the allotment site:

Name:

Plot Number:

Date:

First Contact telephone number:

Please complete the table below.

Second Contact telephone number:

| Topic  | Comment   | What do you intend to do to cover this item? | By when |
|--|---|--|---------|
| Neighbours   |   |  |         |
| Where is the intended location of the hen coop and run?  | Consider shading of neighbour's plot  |  |         |
| Have you consulted with all your neighbours who may directly be affected?  | Chickens can be smelly and may attract vermin/foxes on to the site.<br><br>Give the names/plot numbers of your immediate neighbours who you have consulted.<br><br>Have any objections to your request been received. If yes from whom? |  |         |
| Animal Welfare<br>Hens must be free:   |   |  |         |
| <b>from hunger &amp; thirst</b> (animals must have access to fresh water and a diet which will maintain health and vigour) | What will the chickens be fed?<br><br>How often will they be fed and watered?<br><br>What measures are there in place to cover for absences?  |  |         |

## Appendix A



| Topic  | Comment   | What do you intend to do to cover this item? | By when |
|--|---|--|---------|
| <p><b>from discomfort</b><br/>(an appropriate environment should be provided, including shelter and a comfortable resting area).</p> | <p>Provide the size of the chicken coop/resting area</p> <p>What provisions do you have for such eventualities as flooding?</p>   |  |         |
| <p>from pain, injury or disease<br/>(you must ensure the prevention of illnesses, or rapid diagnosis and treatment)</p>              | <p>Vermin that spread diseases may be attracted by food/waste.</p> <p>How often will the chickens be cleaned out and what will be done with the waste?</p> <p>How will the feed be stored?</p> <p>Provide details of any inoculations against illness disease</p> <p>What arrangements do you have with a vet (if the hens require treatment)?</p> <p>How often will the hens be visited?</p> <p>What arrangements do you have for emergency slaughter?</p> |  |         |

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| Topic   | Comment   | What do you intend to do to cover this item? | By when |
|---|---|--|---------|
| <p><b>to express normal behaviour</b><br/>(sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind should all be provided)</p> | <p>What is the size of the run to be provided</p> <p>What number of chickens are to be kept in the space?</p> |  |         |
| <p><b>from fear and distress</b> (you must provide conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering)</p>                                   | <p>What measures are to be taken to exclude foxes/rabbits?</p>  |  |         |