

Enable Leisure & Culture Allotments guidance notes

Keeping poultry on allotments

Wandsworth Council's allotments are governed by the provisions of the Allotments Acts 1908-1950. The tenant undertakes at all times during the tenancy to observe and comply fully with all enactments, local, parochial and other byelaws, orders or regulations affecting the plot. Enable Leisure & Culture manages the allotments on behalf of Wandsworth Council.

1 Preamble

- 1.1 An allotment is defined in Section 22 of the 1922 Act as "*... wholly or mainly cultivated by the occupier for the production of vegetable or fruit crops for consumption by himself or his family...*" This document sets out the guidance that must be followed when keeping chickens on an allotments site in Wandsworth.
- 1.2 No person who is not a valid plot holder is permitted to keep chickens on the allotments site. If a plot holder ceases to hold an allotment arrangements must be in place to remove the chickens and any associated structures.
- 1.3 This agreement applies only to chickens, bantams and hens for laying eggs. The keeping of other poultry (ducks, geese, turkeys, etc) is prohibited. Roosters or cockerels are not permitted.
- 1.4 Enable L&C Allotments may require chickens and all related equipment to be removed giving one calendar month's notice. Such notice will not be served unreasonably. An explanation will be provided.
- 1.5 Useful advice on keeping chickens can be found on the internet
 - For information about bird flu and biosecurity, phone 08459335577 or see www.defra.gov.uk/food-farm/animals/welfare/on-farm/poultry-welfare/
 - Plain English advice on poultry keeping - www.gov.uk/poultry-welfare-guidance-on-the-farm
 - RSPCA - www.rspca.org.uk/allaboutanimals/pets/farmanimals/chickens
 - British Hen Welfare Trust - www.bhwt.org.uk/

2 No trading on site

Advertising or trading produce is not permitted on any allotments site. The produce from keeping chickens would be eggs, chicken droppings, feathers, live chickens, or chickens for the pot.

3 Structures

- 3.1 The Allotments Letting Agreement requires the tenant to seek written permission to erect any structure (see Rule 23, and see Allotments

Guidance Note on permission for sheds on an allotment). The plot holder will be required to remove any structure unless prior permission has been sought and granted.

- 3.2 The footprint of the structure to house poultry plus the chicken run should not exceed one third of the size of the allotment. No more than 8 chickens should be kept per rod of land used for keeping chickens due to concerns about in vermin on the allotments site.
- 3.3 The coop and chicken run must be well built, weatherproof and robust for the job. Any structure must be placed entirely within the plot; it must not be on the border of a path or overhang a pathway. No structure should be located in such a way that it will overshadow or cause disadvantage to neighbouring plots. Any door must open onto the plot not onto shared pathways.
- 3.4 No chicken is permitted to roam free anywhere on the allotments site at any time.

4 Animal welfare

- 4.1 Biosecurity involves good hygiene to minimise the risk of animal disease. The plot holder is responsible to ensure disease is controlled.
- 4.2 The plot holder should not allow wild birds to come into contact with the chickens. The use of small mesh for all enclosures will help prevent contact with other birds.
- 4.3 Grain and pellets loose on the ground attracts vermin. The plot holder should use specific food dispensers and ensure all dispensers are cleaned regularly and any spillage cleared up as quickly as possible.
- 4.4 The chickens should not be exposed to temperature stress. They must be able to find adequate protection from sun in the coop.
- 4.5 The plot holder must keep the chickens' food and water free from contamination by wild birds and other animals.
- 4.6 It is not permitted to use communal water tanks to wash allotment tools or any equipment involved in keeping chickens. Water must be taken to the chicken coop/run to clean equipment. Soiled water should be returned to your own plot.
- 4.7 The plot holder should ensure own hands, clothes and footwear are clean both before and after contact with your birds.
- 4.8 It is important to know the normal behaviour of poultry and the flock must be watched closely for early signs of distress or disease. A daily inspection must be carried out to check that all birds are behaving normally. The plot holder should contact a vet if you suspect your birds are sick.

- 4.9 In the event of the death of a chicken the carcass should be removed from other birds as soon as possible, the cause of death determined, and its disposal must be off site.
- 4.10 The plot holder must keep records on the health and welfare of all livestock. Enable L&C Allotments may on occasion ask to see these records. The records should include the following:
- Date of introduction of new birds
 - Date, purpose and outcome of vet visit
 - Details of treatments applied
 - Mortality – date and cause

5 Notices on display

A notice giving contact details of the chicken keeper and a back-up contact in case of absence should be displayed clearly on the chicken coop.

Name of poultry keeper	
Address	
Mobile phone	
Email	
Home phone	
Backup in case of absence – name	
Address	
Mobile phone	
Email	
Home phone	

The plot holder should ask the allotments site committee to display a notice within the site to advise other plot holders and visitors not to interfere with the chickens for their own welfare and for that of the birds.

6 Risk assessment

The plot holder wishing to keep chickens must complete an assessment of risks and how to deal with them. This must include consideration of the following:

- a Protection against vermin
- b Foxes and cats
- c Disposal of dead carcasses
- d Arrangements in times of temporary absence by the prime chicken keeper
- e When allotment water supply is turned off - access to drinking water
- f When allotment water supply is turned off - access to water for cleaning
- g Access to drinking water in freezing weather
- h Escaped chickens
- i Disease, notifiable diseases
- j Vandalism
- k Disposal of chickens and property when the plot holder no longer holds a plot
- l Other risks (please specify)

The risk assessment forms part of the permit to keep chickens on the allotment.

Enable Leisure & Culture
Agreement to keep chickens on an allotment

Permission to construct a chicken coop and to keep chickens at the allotment starts when the plot holder receives a countersigned copy of this form

Plot number and
allotment site

Size of plot

Size of area for keeping
chickens

Maximum number of
chickens at any one time

Name of plot holder

Plot holder's signature

Date of signature

Name of Enable L&C
officer

Enable L&C officer's
signature

Designation

Date of signature