Keeping Chickens on allotments in Repton

The tenant undertakes at all times during the tenancy to observe and comply fully with the current tenancy agreement supplemented by these requirements.

1 Preamble

1.1 As the landlord Repton Parish Council sets out in this document the requirements that must be followed when keeping chickens on a Council-owned allotments plot. Failure to abide by this agreement will be taken as termination of the allotment holder's agreement for their allotment.

1.2 No person who is not a valid allotment tenant is permitted to keep chickens on the allotments site. A tenant will be limited to a single chicken run. If a tenant ceases to hold an allotment they must make arrangements 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 The Council may require chickens and all related equipment to be removed giving one calendar months' 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 **https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/poultry-on-farm-welfare**
- RSPCA – https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/farm/layinghens
- British Hen Welfare Trust – **www.bhwt.org.uk/**

1.6 Please follow any government guidance around avian influenza **https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu**

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 Tenancy agreement does not allow any other structure to be erected. The structure to house poultry shall not be used for any other purpose. If it is then the structure and poultry must be removed from the site and the tenant is in breach of the allotment agreement.

3.2 The footprint of the chicken house plus the chicken run (coop) should not exceed one quarter of the size of the allotment. No more than 6 chickens should be kept per rod of land (24 m²) used for keeping chickens due to concerns about vermin on the allotments site and DEFRA advice.

3.3 The chicken house itself will be limited to not more than 1.25m in height and its base will not be more than 0.30m above the ground to allow shelter for the chickens. The chicken house should be limited to 0.30 square metres per chicken.

3.4 The chicken run (coop) must be well built and robust for the job. The chicken run should have a total height of not more than 1.83m in height and above 0.60m; the support structure should be made of material not more than 50 mm in section. 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.

3.5 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 Food 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. Food must be stored in vermin proof containers.

4.6 Water must be taken to the chicken coop/run to clean equipment. Soiled water should be retained on 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 provided that this is in conformance of government guidance during an avian influenza outbreak.

4.10 The plot holder must keep records on the health and welfare of all livestock. The Council 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

4.11 Please give contact details. This notice must be displayed clearly on the chicken coop. See page 3.

4.12 The plot holder should also 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.

5 **Mitigation Actions**

The plot holder wishing to keep chickens must understand the risks involved and have the mitigation actions in place to deal with them. This must include consideration of the following:

a Protection against vermin
b Foxes and cats
c Disposal of dead carcases
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)

Repton Parish Council Chicken Tenancy Agreement Form

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

Size of Chicken Run (m²) - Maximum No of chickens to be kept at any one time -

Name of plot holder -

Plot holder's signature

Plot number

Name of Council officer

Council officer signature

Date of signature

Information to be provided with this agreement and to be attached to Coop

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