

## **Hen Agreement to Be Completed and Returned to The Allotment Office**

### **DEFRA Registration.**

As from 1st October 2024, any birds kept on an allotment plot must be officially registered with DEFRA. Plot holders can register their birds by email <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/register-as-a-keeper-of-less-than-50-poultry-or-other-captive-birds>..

Keeping livestock carries particular responsibilities, and Bradford Council has strict rules about keeping poultry on allotments. Failure to meet animal welfare standards may be a criminal offence and result in prosecution. Your allotment tenancy may also be forfeited.

In accordance with Allotment Law section 12 of the Allotments Act 1950, the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council will permit a maximum of 6 hens to be kept on an allotment plot, provided that the allotment plot is already fully cultivated and used for growing vegetables and fruit for the plot holder and their family. You are permitted to keep chickens, bantams and hens for laying eggs, but NO other poultry i.e. ducks, geese, turkeys, etc.

### **Any other birds including Turkeys and Cockerels are NOT permitted at any time on Bradford Council managed allotment sites.**

When you keep hens, you are legally required to ensure that the welfare needs of the birds are met at all times (Animal Welfare Act 2006).

You must ensure that they have the “5 freedoms” outlined by the Farmed Animal Welfare Committee as stated under Section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

These 5 Freedoms are:

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour
2. Freedom from discomfort by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area
3. Freedom from pain, injury or disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment
4. Freedom to express normal behaviour by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animals' own kind
5. Freedom from fear and distress by ensuring conditions and treatment to avoid mental suffering

Simply put:

- All birds must have access to fresh food and water at all times
- All birds must have suitable internal housing and access to an external run
- All poultry must be able to stand, turn around, stretch their wings, groom themselves and have sufficient space to perch or sit down without interference from other birds.
- All birds must have access to a minimum of 8 hours daylight during the day

### **NO bird shall be kept for the purpose of fighting**

Hens shall be kept for the sole purpose of supplying the tenant and his or her immediate household.

### Termination of keeping hens/chickens on an Allotment Garden Plot:

The Council reserves the right not to allow or to withdraw its agreement for the keeping of Poultry on any plot on any Allotment Land where it is reasonable to do so.

Notice to remove birds from site may be served by the Council when the welfare of any bird is neglected or where a nuisance is caused to residents or others, or any governing body deems it necessary.

The tenant is responsible for the removal of any and all structures and associated items relating to the poultry on termination of tenancy. **Any costs to be the responsibility of the tenant. Any cost the Council incurs cleaning the site after termination will be billed to the outgoing tenant.**

All tenants must register their birds with DEFRA and follow central government guidelines to detect and prevent the spread of avian flu. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/register-as-a-keeper-of-less-than-50-poultry-or-other-captive-birds>

Further guidelines can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

By signing this agreement, you confirm that you have read, understand and accept the rules and you agree to provide the following:

- the correct welfare of the animals themselves
- Comfort and shelter
- Readily accessible fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour
- Freedom of movement
- The opportunity to exercise normal behavioural patterns
- Light during the hours of daylight and a means of inspecting the birds at any other time
- The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of vice, injury, parasitic infection and disease and
- Emergency arrangements in the event of fire, flood or other emergencies.

I Hereby agree to the terms of the conditions and guidelines as stated in the policy for keeping hens and will provide appropriate proof of DEFRA registration within 14 days.

Signed..... Date.....

In the event of an emergency, the person to contact is

Name: .....

Address: .....

Phone: .....

Email: .....

**FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH YOUR TENANCY AGREEMENT RULES OR MEET THE MINIMUM STANDARDS IN THESE GUIDELINES CAN RESULT IN TERMINATION OF YOUR ALLOTMENT TENANCY**

**This agreement must be returned before any birds are brought onto the plot. Please return this document to:**

The Allotment Office, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Argus Chambers, Hall Ings Bradford, BD1 1HZ

E-mail : [asset.allotments@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:asset.allotments@bradford.gov.uk)