

## **FURTHER DETAILS TO RULE 2(u) OF THE BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL ALLOTMENT AGREEMENT**

### **1 GENERAL**

- a) No more than **SIX** chickens per plot holder to be kept at any one time.  
Strictly NO cockerels
- b) 2/3 of the allotment plot must be cultivated, therefore requests to keep chickens will be considered individually and the Town Council will grant or deny permission on the merits of each application.
- c) There will be a £30 deposit payable once permission is granted before constructing a coop on any allotment plot, the deposit will be refunded once all materials brought onto the plot have been dismantled and disposed of away from the site.
- d) All waste generated from the keeping of chickens must be composted in the communal composting area on site which is managed by the Barnstaple Allotment Association.

### **2 HOUSING OF CHICKENS – INTERNAL**

- a) The minimum internal floor space per chicken will be 0.37m<sup>2</sup> to a maximum total floor area of 2.23m<sup>2</sup> i.e. a 1.83m x 1.22m shed has a floor area of 2.23m<sup>2</sup> this will be the minimum requirement to house 6 chickens.
- b) All floors should be kept clean and fresh bedding materials supplied regularly.
- c) Nest boxes, roosting area and perches should not be so high above floor level that chickens have difficulty in using them.
- d) House conditions should at all times be adequate to provide sufficient fresh air, but care should be taken to protect confined chickens from draughts in cold conditions.
- e) Chickens should have easy access to adequate, nutritious and hygienic feed each day, and to adequate fresh water at all times.

### **3 HOUSING OF CHICKENS – EXTERNAL**

- a) The minimum external floor space per chicken will be 2 m<sup>2</sup> i.e 12m<sup>2</sup> external floor area will be the minimum requirement to house 6 chickens.
- b) Chickens should have continuous daytime access to open air runs, these runs should be moved regularly to avoid fowl sick or muddy conditions which could lead to ill health or discomfort of the chickens.
- c) Precautions should be taken to protect the chickens from and avoid disturbances by foxes, rodents and other animals.
- d) There should be care not to leave any type of material on a plot which may attract rodents.
- e) A tenant must ensure that the chickens do not cause a nuisance to other plot holders or to local residents.

#### 4 HEALTH

It cannot be too strongly emphasised that chickens kept under any system can be prone to stress, injury and disease if management and husbandry are not of a high standard. The tenant must inspect the chickens at least once daily and injured or dead chickens should be removed promptly. Dead birds will be disposed of offsite.

Ailing chickens, and any chickens suffering from injury such as open wounds or fractures or prolapse of the vent should be segregated and treated.

Land on which birds are kept for prolonged periods may become 'fowl sick', i.e. contaminated with organisms which cause or carry disease to an extent which should seriously prejudice the health of chickens on the land.

Important indications of health are alertness, clear bright eyes, good posture, vigorous movements if unduly disturbed, active feeding and drinking, and clean, healthy skin, shanks and feet. Attention should be paid to any departure from the normal.

Apart from diet and hygiene, chickens have other basic needs to keep them in a healthy condition. These are: freedom to turn around without difficulty, groom themselves, get up and sit down, rest undisturbed, stretch their legs and body, and perform wing flapping and dust bathing behaviour as well as to fulfil other health and welfare needs.

The early signs of ill health may include changes in food and water intake, in preening, in 'chatter' and in activity.

The Town Council reserves the right not to allow fowl on any allotment plot.

Dead birds must be disposed of according to the Animal By-Products Regulations 2003 – the only disposal route is (as Category 2 – waste) to an approved incineration or rendering plant. This aspect has an important implication for small scale chicken keepers, who cannot take any dead animal to a larger keeper, for example, for approved disposal unless they were themselves a registered Environment Agency Waste Carrier.