



Livestock Guidance

Legislation

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 (the 2006 Act) is the principal law relating to animal welfare.

Tenant has a duty of care to their animals and must make sure they meet their needs:

- For a suitable environment and place to live
- For a suitable diet
- To exhibit normal behaviour patterns
- To be housed with, or apart from, other animals (if applicable)
- To be protected from pain, injury, suffering and disease

You should make sure that you are aware of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and kept up to date with any changes made to the act as it develops by Defra www.defra.gov.uk (Animal Welfare) - Last updated: 25th January 2023.

Introduction

Under the terms of the **SAA** Rules and Regulation Tenancy Clauses 17 (2) and 17 (4) **tenants** are permitted to keep a specific number of designated animals on their plot.

To keep livestock (including Beehives), the **Tenant** must obtain written consent from **SAA** by completing a livestock registration and conditions will be monitored during regular site inspection.

Tenant must not have more than 24 animals on a single plot and no more than 48 in total. It goes without saying that bees are the exception to this rule. This is not a guidance but a strict rule. The committee reserves the right not to allow any livestock on any allotment plot.

Tenant is entitled to keep the following animals: -

- Poultry (Chickens (including Cockerels on permitted plots), Turkeys, Ducks, Geese, Pigeons for meat, Quails, Guinea Fowl, etc)
- Other Birds
- Small Mammals
- Bees (Number of Hives)

Failure to register it will place the tenant in serious breach of the Association rules and could result with the **Tenant** not being given permission to keep any livestock on site.

We have a duty to ensure that all livestock are looked after to a high standard and that the keeping of the livestock does not interfere with other tenants' activities. To help we have highlighted a few areas where problems can arise.

Poultry Accommodation

The minimum internal floor space per bird is 4 sq ft to a maximum floor space of 96 sq ft for one plot and 192 sq ft for two plots (i.e. an 8' x 6' shed will house 12 hens).

The minimum external floor space per bird is 2 sq ft to a maximum floor area of 48 sq ft for one plot and 96 sq ft for two plots (i.e. shed and external run will not cover more than 288 sq ft). Hens must have

continuous daytime access to open air runs, which must be moved regularly to avoid 'fowl sick' or muddy conditions that could lead to ill health or discomfort.

The above dimensions should provide proper shelter from the elements and, as appropriate, a means of exercise which may be extended by the provision of wire fenced runs. A means of access to the shelter must be always available to the poultry, except where cleaning and disinfection etc., is being carried out. Any shelter should permit the **tenant** to stand and inspect the birds therein. The accommodation will require cleansing and disinfection and all litter etc., needs to be disposed of in secure containers or located well away from any shelter or run. Nest boxes, roosting areas and perches must be properly located. All exercise runs should be escape and predator proof.

Ventilation

Sufficient fresh air should be provided by means of doors or other apertures. Birds should be protected from draughts, and it is recommended that the accommodation/shelter entry points face due south. During hot weather, particularly warm humid conditions, all birds must have access to an exercise area. In certain cases, shading may be required.

Health

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

The early signs of ill health may include changes in food and water intake, in preening, in 'chatter' and in activity. There may also be a drop in egg production and changes in egg quality such as shell defects.

Lighting

A means of artificial lighting must be provided, which is adequate to inspect all birds on the site. Poultry must have access to a minimum of 8 hours daylight during any day.

Feeding and Watering

Water must be always available, and all equipment kept clean and in good order. Feed should be kept in vermin proof containers. Any diet must be properly balanced for the type of bird and given in sufficient amounts to ensure the proper wellbeing of the animals. The risk of drinking water freezing during winter months must be considered.

All poultry must be able to stand, turn round and stretch their wings, and have sufficient space to perch or sit down without interference from other birds. The stocking rate will not only be dependent upon the ability of the tenant, but also the type of poultry kept. All poultry must have access to an exercise area.

Fire Precautions

Plans for dealing with fire should be made. All inflammable materials i.e. straw, waste, litter and empty bags must be stored well away from poultry accommodation and exercise areas. A means of controlling any small fire should be available and the **tenant's** emergency telephone number and contact address is known to the committee.

Frequency of Inspection

All birds must be inspected by the **tenant** at least twice daily. The **tenant** must allow the committee's representatives to inspect the poultry at any time or as deemed necessary.

Disease Control

Any sick or injured birds must be removed immediately, and treatment provided. The name and address of the Veterinary Surgeon must be known to the **tenant**. Information will be posted on the shop fence.

The cause of any disease or injury will be identified and remedial action taken.

Any national disease prevention and/or control programme must be adhered to according to the government's legislation. **Tenants** in breach of the laws could result in the termination of keeping their livestock on site.

Cleaning and Disinfection

The accommodation and association equipment should be regularly cleaned and disinfected. It is advisable to de-stock sites and allow a minimum of 7 days rest period. Only good quality litter originating from premises where poultry are not kept should be used.

Transport

Any container used to transport poultry should be clean, in good repair and of a type suitable for the type of birds to be moved. All birds must be handled with due care. The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 lays down provisions regarding the loading, transport and unloading of poultry.

Improvement Notice

Where it is deemed necessary that in the interest of the welfare of any bird kept on the site, to effect improvements to the accommodation or overall management of a site. Notice will be served accordingly. In certain circumstances immediate rectification may be directed.

General

- The term "poultry" includes hens, table poultry (chickens), turkeys, geese, ducks and quail;
- Whatever the system, the most important factor is the 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 or as deemed as necessary;
- The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of vice, injury, parasitic infection and disease; and
- Emergency arrangements in the event of fire or flood.

Any queries regarding the guidance should be directed to our Livestock Representatives:

1. Dave Foster at 07772 307977
2. Eric Benson at 07516 461229