



Didcot Town Council's Livestock Policy

As per section 7 and 8 of Didcot Town Council's Allotment Rules and Procedures, whereby:

7. Hens and rabbits are allowed on the allotments. A written request needs to be approved by the Council and the Council's Livestock Policy will apply;

And

8. A suitable wire or heavy -duty plastic fence must be erected to keep hens within a confined space (at least 5 feet in height). The absolute minimum space for each hen in the run is 1 square metre per hen. No more than 6, but not less than 2 hens will be allowed on the allotment plot. Tenants will only be granted permission to keep hens on one allotment, irrespective of how many plots are rented.

any hens or rabbits kept at the allotment will need to have written permission from Didcot Town Council.

All animals will remain the sole responsibility of the tenant.

Didcot Town Council requirements for keeping Hens on Allotment sites

Under Section 12 of the Allotments Act 1950, hens (NOT Cockerels) may be kept on allotments, but not for trade or business, and as long as they are not a nuisance to other allotment-holders or surrounding residential properties.

Tenants are restricted to a maximum number of six hens on one plot irrespective of the number of plots rented. The conditions required by Didcot Town Council are listed below for tenants wishing to have livestock on their allotment plot.

The following conditions **must** be met:

1. A suitable wire or heavy duty plastic fence must be erected to keep hens within a confined area. (At least 5 feet in height). This will be inspected before permission is granted.
2. The absolute minimum space for each hen in the run is 1 square metre per hen. However, 2 square metres per hen is preferable.
3. A suitable roosting house (coop) must be provided.
4. Not more than 6 but not less than 2 hens to be kept on the allotment plot.
5. A pest-proof store must be provided for the storage of feed.
6. Items 1-5 must be in place before livestock is installed.

7. Arrangements must be made for the regular disposal of droppings to prevent vermin/rodents.
8. Inspections will be made by the Town Council to ensure there is adequate rodent control.
9. The Council reserve the right to dispose of livestock without notice if it appears to be neglected.

Didcot Town Council's requirements for keeping Rabbits on Allotment sites

Under section 12 of the Allotment Act 1950 it is permitted to keep rabbits on allotments and to 'erect or place and maintain such buildings or structures on the land as reasonably necessary for that purpose' and as long as they are not a nuisance to other allotment-holders or surrounding residential properties.

Tenants are restricted to 2 rabbits of the same sex on a plot and will remain fully responsible for the animals and structures in which they are kept.

The following conditions **must** be met:

1. A suitable sized hutch will need to be used to house the rabbits, allowing them room to move around freely and stretch.
2. Rabbits are sociable animals so will need to have company. Rabbits should be kept in pairs. Maximum of 2 rabbits to be kept on any one allotment plot.
3. Arrangements must be made for regular disposal of droppings to prevent vermin/rodents.
4. Inspections will be made by the Town Council, to ensure there is adequate rodent control.
5. The Council reserve the right to dispose of livestock without notice if it appears to be neglected.

Should the weather become too severe in the winter, we advise you to take the rabbits inside your home or to make sure the hutch is fully insulated and that water bottles are defrosted.

Should you be found to be in breach of any of these rules, the Town Council reserves the right to terminate permission of allowing livestock on your plot, with immediate effect. This would be classed as a breach of your tenancy and could result in the termination of your plot.