



Winchester & District Allotment Holders Society - Keeping Livestock Guide

For the purposes of this guide the term Livestock refers to any animal or bird.

General Rules:

1. Members must inform the Committee if they intend to keep any livestock on site.
2. Members must obtain permission from the Committee prior to bringing any livestock onto the site.
3. Members wishing to keep animals must demonstrate an appropriate level of competency and be familiar with welfare legislation and DEFRA recommendations / requirements.
4. Members must complete and submit, the Societies Animal Registration form prior to keeping livestock.
5. Members must inform the Committee of livestock numbers and notify the committee of any changes.
6. Members are responsible for the welfare of the animals they keep and adhering to all legislation associated with the keeping of animals.
7. All livestock must be inspected daily by a competent person.
8. Members must have a valid holding (CPH) number and herd/flock numbers prior to keeping sheep, goats or pigs.
9. Livestock may only be kept in such quantities as to provide for the members immediate family. No livestock may be kept with the intention of selling either it or its by-products, for commercial purposes.
10. Livestock may only be kept in such stocking densities as to not put excessive demands upon the land (for example poultry runs must contain grass).
11. Livestock must always have access to an adequate supply of clean drinking water.
12. Livestock must have continuous access to shelter providing protection from adverse weather (including wind, rain, snow & sun).
13. Livestock must have continuous access to additional space for exercise & other natural behaviours.
14. Livestock may only be tightly contained / tethered for short periods of time (usually while undergoing welfare treatment).
15. Livestock must be protected from bullying / harassment from other livestock (eg feather pecking, tail biting, fighting, excessive humping!).
16. Livestock should not be kept alone or in isolation for sustained periods of time.
17. All livestock must be protected from any type of suffering including fear, pain, injury and disease.
18. All live stock must be kept in accordance with the Five Freedoms:
 - I. freedom from hunger and thirst - by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour;
 - II. freedom from discomfort - by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area;

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Registered address: 36 Gordon Avenue, Winchester SO23 0QQ

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- III. freedom from pain, injury or disease - by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment;
- IV. freedom to express normal behaviour - by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animals' own kind;
- V. freedom from fear and distress - by ensuring conditions and treatment to avoid mental suffering.

In situations involving animal welfare or animal husbandry, the Committee has the authority to act on behalf of the animal owner and to take restorative action without notification or consent. All costs associated with such interventions shall be passed on to the animal owner in full.

Runs, Paddocks, Fencing & Housing

- 19. Runs & paddocks must be kept clear of litter & other materials which might cause harm / harbour vermin.
- 20. Runs & paddocks must be cleared of vegetation which might be harmful to animals.
- 21. Runs & paddocks must be rested and allowed to recover (and prevent the build-up of parasites). No run should have livestock on it continually for 12 months.
- 22. All livestock must be securely fenced to prevent escape and provide protection from predators.
- 23. All vulnerable livestock must be securely locked away at night.
- 24. All shelters & housing must be well ventilated, clean and dry and be of an appropriate size.
- 25. All shelters & housing must be mucked out and cleaned regularly to avoid the build-up of bacteria & parasites.

Feed

- 26. All livestock must be provided with adequate quantities of appropriate feed.
- 27. All feed must be stored in clean, dry, secure rodent-proof containers.
- 28. Feeding areas / stations should be moved regularly.
- 29. Supplementary feed must be distributed through appropriate feed troughs and must not be left out for sustained periods to attract vermin – specialist vermin-proof feeders must be used for feeding poultry.

Vermin

- 30. Members must inform the committee if they suspect or see vermin.
- 31. Supplementary feed must be dispensed in such a way as not to attract vermin (feed must not be left in open troughs or scattered on the ground for sustained periods of time and never over-night).

Transport

- 32. Animals must be transported in appropriate crates / trailers and in such a way as not to cause injury or undue suffering.
- 33. All livestock must be transported in accordance with legislation including registering & recording movements when required.

34. Members must adhere to movement standstill restrictions associated with the movement of livestock on and off their holding.

Identification & Records

35. A livestock inventory must be kept up-to-date at all times (recording stock numbers, movements, births & deaths).
36. Records of all veterinary medication must be kept for a minimum of 5 years including proof of purchase, type of medication (including batch number), date of treatment, animals treated, dosages, duration of treatment & withdrawal periods.
37. All livestock numbers must be recorded annually, as of 1st December, and reported to DEFRA by 31st December the same year (records can be submitted online).

Medication

38. All animals must be registered with a vet.
39. All animals must be treated with preventative medication as required in order to prevent the build-up of parasites and protect them from disease and other illness such as fly-strike.
40. All medication administrations must be recorded, including: type, batch number, quantities administered, dates, withdrawal periods, individual animal identifications.
41. Any unused or expired medication must be disposed of at a veterinary practice.

Disposal of fallen stock:

42. All carcasses and animal by-products must be disposed of within 24 hours of discovery.
43. All carcasses (including still-borns) and animal by-products must be disposed of at designated disposal centre in accordance with transport and disposal regulations.
44. Burying or burning carcasses or animal by-products is illegal.

Identification

45. All livestock must be tagged / marked in accordance with current legislation (sheep – tagged prior to movement or within 9 months & double-tagged at 12 months, pigs – tagged or slap marked prior to movement or within 6 months.)

Poultry

46. All poultry must be securely housed overnight in a suitable poultry-house.
47. Poultry must be 'let-out' early in the morning and 'put-away' in the evening, poultry must not be kept 'locked-in' for excessive periods of time, particularly in hot weather.
48. Automatic poultry 'door-openers' are allowed but must be maintained and inspected regularly. (All poultry must be inspected daily even if automatic door opening systems are in place).

Chickens

49. No member shall keep more than **SIX** hens without consent from the committee.
50. Poultry must have daily access to adequate outdoor space – (as a rule of thumb poultry runs should have plenty of fresh grass and not be predominantly mud).
51. All poultry must be fed using approved rodent-proof feeders (such as the Standard Grandpas Feeder).
52. No loose / scatter feeding is allowed.

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53. Provision must be made to house all poultry indoors for sustained periods of time in the event of an outbreak of avian flu.
54. Hens must have access to clean nest boxes.
55. All poultry must be provided with suitable perches / roosting areas.
56. Poultry runs must be securely fenced.
57. All poultry houses must be raised at least 20cm from the ground and have open access beneath.
58. All poultry houses must be regularly cleaned and periodically rested to prevent the build-up of parasites and prevent vermin.
59. Poultry runs must be rested annually for a minimum of six weeks to allow the ground to recover and prevent the build-up of parasites.
60. All poultry must be securely locked away at night.
61. All poultry **must be** registered with the Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) to help restrict the transmission of disease outbreaks such as Avian Influenza.

Foul (Ducks, Turkeys, Geese & Guineafowl)

62. Due to the increased difficulty keeping and feeding foul in such a way as to not encourage vermin, any member wishing to keep foul must seek special permission from the Committee.

Inspection

63. The Committee reserves the right to inspect animals, enclosures, and housing at any time and without notification.
64. The Committee reserves the right to 'cut-locks' to gain access to livestock areas should they deem it to be necessary.
65. Members wishing to secure livestock areas should provide the Committee with a spare key or the combination codes as the Committee will not compensate members should it be necessary to cut locks to gain access.

Additional information / guidance – available from the gov.uk website

All livestock must be kept in accordance with the following guidance:

- DEFRA Code of practice for the welfare of pigs
- DEFRA Code of practice for the welfare of laying hens and pullets
- DEFRA Code of practice for the welfare of meat chickens and meat breeding chickens
- DEFRA Code of practice for the welfare of laying hens and pullets
- DEFRA Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock: Sheep
- Codes of Recommendations for the welfare of livestock: Goats
- SMR13 – Animal welfare
- SMR12 – welfare of pigs

Animal Owner Check List:

Permission	
	Have you obtained permission to keep livestock or poultry on site?
	Are you familiar with the rules within the 'Winchester & District Allotment Holders Society - Keeping Livestock Guide'
Fencing	
	Secure & Robust
	Adequately contains animals
	Provides adequate protection from predators
The Run	
	Is of adequate size
	Is free from potentially harmful objects
	Provides protection from the elements
	Is periodically rested and allowed to recover
	Enables animals to exhibit natural behaviour
	Is free from excessive dung
	Is free from litter
	Is free from harmful plants
	Is clean and tidy so as to make the detection of vermin easy
	Is free from materials which might provide shelter for vermin
	Is not overstocked
Housing	
	Appropriate
	Weatherproof
	Well ventilated
	Secure
	Clean and with fresh suitable bedding
	Free from sharp objects
	Of adequate size to house the number of animals
	Suitable for sleeping and sheltering
Feeding	
	There is a fresh and constant supply of clean water
	Feed is suitable to the animals' needs
	Feed is stored in vermin-proof containers
	Feed is provided in such a way as to encourage vermin
Paperwork	
	Have all DEFRA requirements been met
	Animals are registered with a vet
	Animals have been approved by the Committee
	All animals tagged and registered as required
	Animals are not being reared for sale or profit
Access	
	Supplied Committee with spare padlock key / code

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Winchester & District Allotment Holders Society - Application to Keep Animals

Name									
Address									
Contact 1: Name				Telephone number					
Contact 2: Name				Telephone number					
Contact 3: Name				Telephone number					
Contact 4: Name				Telephone number					
Quantity of animals you would like permission to keep...									
Chickens		Ducks		Geese		Quail			
Sheep		Pigs		Goats		Cows			
Holding Number					Herd / Flock Number				
Plot / Grazing Number (where you intend to keep the animals)									
Vet Name & Address					Vet Telephone number				
I hereby agree to keep livestock in accordance with the terms laid out in the 'Winchester & District Allotment Holders Society - Keeping Livestock Guide'.									
Signature					Date				

If the Committee deems you not to be keeping your animals in accordance with the 'Winchester & District Allotment Holders Society – Keeping Livestock Guide,' the Committee shall implement the following 3-step procedure:

- 1- The Committee shall attempt to make verbal contact with you (or your representative) via the contact details listed above. You will be given 24 hours to rectify the situation.
- 2- The Committee shall review the situation after 24 hours. If the situation has not been satisfactorily resolved, you will be given 24 hours to remove your livestock from site.
- 3- In the event that the situation remains unresolved after 48 hours, the Committee shall rectify the situation by whatever means it deems necessary, and all associated costs will be passed on to you (the owner).