



Policy for keeping rabbits on Allotment Plots

Adopted February 2024

The following policy is devised for the keeping of rabbits on allotments with prior permission from the Parish Council.

Created to support section 15 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

All rabbits must be kept in a suitable secure housing, and should be:

- Provided a suitable diet.
- Provided fresh clean water in a recommended container.
- Allowed to exhibit normal rabbit behaviour.
- Provided companion rabbits as social animals.
- Protected from pain, injury, suffering and disease.

Rabbits must be provided with a grassed enclosure with suitable fencing sunk at least 50cm into the ground and designed to keep out predators and prevent the rabbits from burrowing out.

In order to maintain healthy teeth and claws, rabbits must have daily access to the enclosure and provided with suitable gnawing materials.

Within the enclosure the rabbits require a large weather and predator proof housing/home.

Any rabbit housing/home must be raised off the ground, out of direct sunlight and protected against strong winds.

Within the housing/home each rabbit requires a separate, covered sleeping area and a clean layer of pet-safe wood shavings and hay for bedding.

The housing/home must be spot-cleaned daily and bedding changed weekly.

During winter months, additional protection is required against the cold; this may be in using insulating material wrapped around the housing/home but still allowing good ventilation.

Rabbits must be provided with a mixed diet of grass, rabbit pellets, suitable vegetables and fruit and a consistent supply of hay.

A suitable water feeder must be always available with fresh water. This should be closely monitored during cold weather due to risk of freezing.

Any feed in need of storage must be stored in a sealed bin or container to keep it secure from rodents.

There may not be more than one rabbit per square metre of outdoor space, and no more than three per square metre of any housing/home.

A register of rabbits must be maintained by the tenant which provides a full medical history.

No more than 25% of the allotment garden should be occupied by permitted livestock, the other 75% should be used for cultivation.

The Parish Council does not permit any other livestock except chickens or bees, both of which must be formally requested of Parish Council.

Any rodents attracted to any chicken housing must be dealt with by the tenant without the use of poison. Any rodent infestation must be reported to the Parish Council in the first instance.

The Parish Council may seek veterinary advice regarding any livestock that appear to be suffering or neglected.