

ALLOTMENT RABBITKEEPING AGREEMENT

Keeping rabbits was once a common activity on allotments which today can bring enjoyment for the keeper and others, as well as providing a safe and pleasant environment for the rabbits. We require that reasonable welfare standards are met and hope you enjoy allotment gardening and keeping rabbits on Ealing's allotments.



Ealing Council
Environment and Leisure
Perceval House
14/16 Uxbridge Road
Ealing W5 2HL

1. REVIEW OF AGREEMENT

The council reserves the right to review this agreement as required. Before making any changes the council will give you notice of such changes.

2. TENANCY

Any person keeping rabbits on allotment land must be an allotment tenant and is bound by the allotment tenancy agreement in addition to this agreement. The tenant must obtain permission from either the site manager or the council's allotments manager to keep rabbits.

3. THE FIVE FREEDOMS

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 requires that you:

- *provide a suitable environment for the rabbits*
- *provide a suitable diet and fresh water*
- *allow the rabbits to exhibit normal behaviour*
- *provide companion rabbits as they are social animals*
- *protect them from pain, injury, suffering and disease*

The rabbits must be provided with a grassed enclosure surrounded by 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 the rabbits must have daily access to the enclosure and must be provided with a gnawing block.

Within this enclosure, the rabbits require a large weatherproof and predator-proof home. This must be raised off the ground, out of direct sunlight and protected against strong winds. Within the home, each rabbit requires a separate, covered sleeping area and a clean layer of wood shavings and plenty of hay or shredded paper for bedding. The home must be cleaned every day and the bedding replaced weekly.

During the winter months additional protection is required against the cold; this may be insulating material wrapped around the home or a shed around the shed.

The rabbits must be provided with a mixed diet of grass, rabbit pellets, apples, carrots, dandelions, a good quantity of hay and a constant supply of fresh, clean drinking water in a drip feed bottle with metal spout. Food must be stored in airtight containers in a vermin-proof location.

There may be no more than one rabbit per square metre of outdoor space and no more than three per square metre of the shelter.

A register of rabbits must be maintained on site, giving full medication history. The council may seek veterinary advice regarding any animals that appear to be suffering or neglected.

Please sign and return one copy of this agreement to the manager.

Plot number

Site

Signature

Date