

# Guidance: Poultry: on-farm welfare

*Updated:* Latest version of the code of practice for the welfare of laying hens and pullets added.

You and any staff working with animals must read, understand and have access to the relevant welfare code of recommendations for any birds you look after. Welfare codes aren't law, but if you don't follow them it can be used as evidence in court if you're prosecuted for causing unnecessary suffering to livestock or poultry.

As a poultry keeper you must look after poultry in ways that meet their welfare needs, making sure they don't experience any unnecessary distress, suffering or [heat stress](#).

You need to [follow the guide to looking after farm animals](#). It explains your general responsibilities to farm animals and helps you follow the Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations 2007 and related laws.