



RETROSUBURBIA

THE DOWNSHIFTER'S GUIDE TO A RESILIENT FUTURE

CHAPTER 21: DOMESTIC ANIMALS IN SUBURBIA

QUESTIONS:

- What is your relationship to animals? Are they a big part of your life? Do you eat them? Do you utilise them in other ways? Do you share your living space with them?
- What livestock have you kept? What lessons have you learned from the experience?
- What is the best livestock system and/or animal housing you have seen? Why did it appeal to you? What made it work?

ACTIVITIES:

- For anyone with livestock or planning to keep livestock, make a chart describing how the animals are integrated with other parts of your system (see the goat illustration on p27 for inspiration). Are there ways that you can integrate livestock into your system further?
- Brainstorm sustainable sources of feed (or other needs such as bedding) for each of the livestock kept by the group eg kitchen and garden waste, home produced feed, locally grown grain, foraged materials.* What are the advantages and disadvantages of each? Is there a way the group can work together to access these more easily, for instance through bulk buying, rotations for collecting café scraps, central drop-off points for green waste?
- For those who haven't got the time or space for livestock, discuss how you might be able to organise a share system eg looking after shared chickens at someone else's place on specific days of the week.
- Organise a workshop and/or local tour on keeping chickens, bees, goats, rabbits or any other animal many of the group are interested in. This might be run by an experienced member of the group, or an expert from the local area.

* Further resources for this activity may be available to registered book clubs

