

# URBAN BEEKEEPING GUIDELINES

Keeping bees in Edmonton is controlled and enforced under the *Animal Licensing and Control Bylaw, No. 13145*. The following guidelines will help ensure that urban beekeeping is a positive addition to the community by providing best practices and responsible regulations to minimize impact on surrounding neighbors.

## 1 SETBACK REQUIREMENTS

- Hives may only be located in the rear yard of a property
- Sites must be located at least 25 metres away from any public place, including but not limited to playgrounds, sports fields, churches or schools
- Hive entrances must be directed away from adjacent residential properties
- Hives should be located at least three metres from all property lines where there is an adjacent neighbour, unless the property is separated from the adjacent neighbour by a solid fence or vegetative hedge at least 1.5 metres high

## 2 NUMBER AND SIZE OF HIVES

Each approved property shall house one active hive consisting of a bottom board and hive cover with a maximum of six supers. Each Site may keep a nucleus (Nuc) hive to provide options for good animal husbandry and hive management.

## 3 STANDARD OF CARE

Every beekeeper shall adhere to good management and husbandry practices and maintain bees in such a condition so as to prevent swarming, aggressive behavior and disease. Animal Control must be notified of any swarms and/or disease and the steps taken to rectify the issue.

## 4 INSPECTIONS

Approved beekeeping site owners shall make themselves and the hive(s) available for inspection on reasonable request of Animal Control Peace Officers.

## 5 NEIGHBOUR NOTIFICATION

Prior to submitting an application, every beekeeping applicant must notify all adjacent neighbours, in writing, of their intent to keep bees. Provide the date neighbours were notified in your application. This requirement is a **notification** to neighbours, not a request for permission.

## 6 TRAINING

Each approved beekeeper and the property owner and/or a resident of the site must complete a beekeeping course from an accepted organization/association. All beekeepers in their first year must also demonstrate that they have the support and assistance of a mentor acceptable to Animal Control.

## 7 REVOCABLE PERMISSION

Should Animal Control find a site, hive or beekeeper to be unsuitable at any time, the permission may be revoked and the site owner shall work with Animal Control to relocate the hive and bees to a location outside the City of Edmonton. All costs and associated expenditures related to the removal are the sole responsibility of the site or property owner. Permission can be revoked due to documentation of medical concerns from residents of neighbouring properties.

## 8 REGISTRATION

Pursuant to the *Alberta Bee Act*, all beekeepers shall register with the provincial apiculturist and shall comply with the *Bee Act* wherever required.

## 9 APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS

All interested beekeepers must submit an online application outlining the following requirements:

- Name, address, and contact information for site owner
- Confirmation of location of hive in relation to the property (site drawing or photo evidence of compliance with setback requirements) Proof
- of success in an accepted beekeeping course
- For first time beekeepers, proof of support and assistance of an accepted mentor
- Proof (and date) that adjacent neighbours have been informed of the site plan
- Swarm and disease control plan
- Certificate of registration with the provincial apiculturist, and your PID number

## ENFORCEMENT

Animal Control Peace Officers will respond to all complaints and initiate investigations when warranted. Failing to comply with the terms and conditions of an Urban **Beekeeping Licence** may result in a fine of **\$100**, or a licence being revoked. Keeping bees without a licence will result in a **\$500** fine. Honey production is for self-consumption. No sale of honey and bee products is permitted. All public complaints shall be directed through **311**; this reporting approach is consistent with the City of Edmonton bylaw complaint process. Failing to comply with the terms and conditions of an Urban **Beekeeping Licence** may result in a fine of **\$100**, or a licence being revoked. Keeping bees without a licence will result in a **\$500** fine.

