

BEEKEEPER GUIDELINES

A Beekeeper may keep bees by:

1. Submitting:

- a Beekeeper License Form and paying a one-time \$10 Beekeeper License fee. If the Beekeeper is not the owner of a property, an Agency Agreement must also be submitted;
- a scaled site plan showing the location of hives, electric fencing, other Beekeeping related structures, and any other buildings or structures on the property; and
- a copy of their Beekeeper Identification Number issued by the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture Apiculture Program.

2. Ensuring that the following requirements are met:

- keep a maximum of four (4) colonies per parcel. This is typically two (2) colonies and two (2) nucleus colonies. A nucleus colony means a small colony of not more than five (5) removable frames primarily used for rearing and storing queen bees;
- minimum lot size 370 M² (3,982 SF);
- beekeepers should take all reasonable measures to prevent and manage swarming or defensive behaviours by the bees;
- provide a water supply to prevent the bees from seeking water from other sources;
- the beehives are to be in located in such a way as to ensure adequate sun exposure and airflow for the health of the bees;
- be the registered owner of the property where bees are kept or have permission from the registered owner of the property where the bees are kept;
- have a beekeeper identification number, issued to them by the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture Apiculture Program;
- 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 must be sited so as to allow a clean flight path of at least 7.5 meters (25 feet) from the front of the hives to any property line and to allow at least 3 meters (10 feet) between the side and rear of the hive and any property line, except where the hive is:
 - i. Sited behind a solid fence or hedge that is at least 1.8 meters (high in which case the 7.5 meter setback may be reduced to 6 meters and the 3 meters setback reduced to 1 meter; or
 - ii. Elevated (eg. On a platform, deck, or rooftop) such that the underside of the Beehive is at least 2.5 meters above the ground level, in which case the 7.5 meter setback may be reduced to 3 meters.
- ensure that Beehives are enclosed by an electric fence located a minimum 1m from Beehives, and that the electric fence and gate;
 - i. has a minimum of six strands of 12.5 gauge high tensile galvanized wire, with the bottom wire no more than 5 cm from the ground and subsequent wires spaced at an interval of no greater than 25 cm apart, with alternating positive and negative strands, with the top wire no less than 1.1 m from the ground;
 - ii. is programmed to a minimum conduction of 6000 volts to a maximum of 10,000 volts;
 - iii. is grounded using three (3) 16 mm ground rods, 2-3 m deep and spaced at least 3m apart, connected to the negative output terminal of the fence charger by ground clamps; and
 - iv. is braced by corner posts (and guy wires or inside angle braces where necessary) to ensure posts will not bend or pull from the ground when the electric fence wire is pulled to the appropriate tension.

NOTE - When contacting the City's Bylaw Enforcement Officer (See step 3 below) photos, receipts or other documentation will be required that demonstrate: 1) the ground rods were installed 2-3 m deep; 2) the wire is 12.5 gauge; and 3) the fence is programmed between 6000 and 10,000 volts.

3. Contacting the City's Bylaw Enforcement Officer at 250-365-8963 to arrange an inspection PRIOR to obtaining and keeping Bees.