

URBAN BEEKEEPING GUIDELINES



Keeping bees in Grande Prairie is controlled and enforced under the Animal and Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw, C-1226. 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 meters 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 meters 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 meters 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 recommended number of four 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. Enforcement Services 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 Bylaw Officers.

5 NEIGHBOURHOOD

Upon receipt of a completed application, Enforcement Services will send a letter to all adjacent neighbours detailing the request. This notification process allows neighbours an opportunity to express any concerns to Enforcement Services regarding the application.

6 TRAINING

Each approved beekeeper 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 Enforcement Services.

7 REVOCABLE PERMISSION

Should Enforcement Services find a site, hive or beekeeper to be unsuitable at any time, the permission may be revoked and the site owner shall work with Enforcement Services to relocate the hive and bees to a location outside the City of Grande Prairie. All costs and associated expenditures related to the removal are the sole responsibility of the site or property owner.

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 animal limit exemption application, including:

- 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
- Swarm and disease control plan
- Certificate of registration with the provincial apiculturist

