



City of Moose Jaw POLICY

POLICY:	<i>Urban Beekeeping</i>	POLICY NO.:	
POLICY Owner	<i>Planning and Development Services</i>	Approved on:	
Approved by:	City Council Resolution #	Effective Date:	
Last Reviewed:		Next Review:	

1. Purpose

As the City has no specific bylaws about beekeeping, this document is intended to be a guideline for responsible honeybee management practices. Keeping bees in Moose Jaw is regulated and enforced solely by the Province under **The Apiaries Act**. The City policy will help ensure that urban beekeeping is a positive addition to the community by providing best practices to minimize impact on surrounding neighbors and explain your responsibilities as a beekeeper. In an effort to help dispel myths about honeybees, beekeepers are encouraged to educate the public about the behaviors of honeybees. Education is a key resource in ensuring safety and promoting goodwill with neighbors.

2. Definitions

Swarming

Although swarming is natural, steps should be taken to discourage swarming in urban settings. Effective swarm prevention practices include:

- Regular hive inspections of the brood nest every 10-14 days.
- Avoiding Congestion. Overcrowding is a primary reason a colony will swarm.
- Splitting the hive (and keeping spare equipment on hand in case you need to split).
- Ensuring adequate ventilation in the hive.
- Springtime feeding should be limited unless splitting hives.
- Frame manipulation in the brood nest.
- Beekeepers should add supers to their boxes.

If a swarm is seen, immediate efforts should be made to collect the swarm. Contact one of the local beekeeping groups if you need assistance.

3. Scope

This policy will be utilized by the Planning and Development Services Department. The Bylaw Department will be the central location within the organization for record keeping purposes for beekeepers to provide confirmation of hive locations and Provincial registration.

4. Responsibilities

Every beekeeper shall adhere to good management and husbandry practices and maintain bees in such a condition so as to prevent swarming, aggressive behaviours and disease. A Provincial Apiculturist must be notified of any disease and the steps taken to rectify the issue.

All beekeepers shall register with the provincial apiarist and shall comply with The Apiaries Act wherever required.

Urban beekeeping is discouraged before completing a recognized course in beekeeping and/or seeking membership in a local bee club. Contact the Provincial Apiculturist for a list of local bee clubs.

A constant source of water should always be provided for hives, so they don't seek out neighbouring swimming pools, bird baths, ponds or other bodies of water.

Hive openings should be oriented away from nearby public spaces, balconies, terraces or elevated patios. In order to ensure the appropriate height of a honeybee flight path, a beehive should be situated:

- behind a barrier that is 1.8m (6 ft) in height running parallel to the property line;
- at least 2.4 m (8 ft) off the ground (on a rear deck for example) if a 1.8m (6 ft) barrier is not present.

Register your beehive with the Province of Saskatchewan

Pursuant to **The Apiaries Act**, anyone keeping bees in Saskatchewan must be registered with the Province of Saskatchewan, including the apiary locations where bees are kept. Registration is free and the Provincial Apiarist will help you keep your bees healthy and in compliance. Contact an Apiarist officer at (306) 953-2304 for further information about registration.

Liability

- For peace of mind, you are encouraged to carry liability insurance to cover accidents related to your beekeeping activities.

Number of hives

- As a general guideline, it is recommended no more than **two** hives should be kept on a property that is less than 550sq m (5,920 sq ft) in size, and no more than **four** on lots larger than 550sq m (5,920 sq ft) in size within the city.

5. Procedure

City Registration

All interested beekeepers in the City must submit information outlining the name, address and contact information for the site owner, confirmation of Provincial Registration, confirmation of location of hives in relation to the property, and the number of hives located on the property.

For any additional information, beekeepers are to contact the following:

Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission at (204) 937-7588

Provincial Specialist in Apiculture at (306) 980-6198

Apiculture Industry Specialist at (306) 953-2773