

King George County

Department of Community Development

10459 Courthouse Drive, Suite 104, King George, VA 22485

Phone: 540-775-7111 Fax: 540-775-3139



DOMESTIC BEEKEEPING PERMIT APPLICATION

Application Fee: \$25.00

4.15 Keeping of Honeybees

4.15.1 Keeping of Honeybees. Keeping of Honeybees shall conform to the following:

- a. Hives may be kept on an occupied single family residential lot. With the following lot size requirements:
 - a. Two (2) hives permitted with a minimum 15,000 square feet of lot area.
 - b. Three (3) hives permitted with a minimum 20,000 square feet of lot area.
 - c. Four (4) hives permitted with a minimum 25,000 square feet of lot area.
 - d. With a maximum of four (4) hives.
- b. No hive shall be located closer than 10 feet to any property line or sidewalk. Hives are not permitted in any front yard.
- c. A constant supply of fresh water shall be provided on the lot within 20 feet of all hives.
- d. A fly away barrier of at least six (6) feet in height shall shield any part of a property line that is within 25 feet of a hive. A fly away barriers shall consist of dense vegetation, a wall or solid fence.
- e. The owner, operator, or tenant shall obtain a permit issued by the Zoning Administrator.
- f. Beekeepers must abide by the Beekeeping Best Management Practices provided by Virginia Department of Agriculture.
- g. Any sale of bees on combs or hives, used beekeeping equipment or appliances shall have a certificate of health as required by the Code of Virginia §3.2-4407.

- **Check with your Homeowner's Association to ensure that beekeeping is permitted by your Homeowner Covenants and Guidelines**
- **Residential beekeeping is only permitted in R-1 and R-2 Zoning Districts.**

Owner

Information

Name

Daytime Telephone No.

Mailing Address

E-mail Address

Fax Number

Cell Number

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Property Information | Address / Road Name _____ |
| Subdivision | _____ Tax Map # ____ Section ____ Parcel ____ |
| Zoning: _____ | Total Acres: _____ Number of Hives: _____ RPA: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

DOMESTIC BEEKEEPING PERMIT APPLICATION

PROPERTY OWNER AFFIDAVIT

I hereby certify as the property owner that the applicant named above has the authority vested by me to maintain honeybee hives at the above listed address. The information provided on this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the hive locations and maintenance must comply with all conditions of the King George County Zoning Ordinance, Section 4.15, as well as all other zoning requirement. As the property owner, I am ultimately responsible.

Property Owner's Signature

Date

APPLICANT AFFIDAVIT

I have read, agree to and understand the following:

- a) To comply with the ordinances and best practices applicable to domestic beekeeping.
- b) The Zoning Administrator's designee may revoke the permit and remove the hive(s) if the applicant fails to comply with the best practices as stipulated herein, this or any ordinance of King George County or any other applicable Virginia or local law or regulation pertaining to the keeping of bees.
- c) The county's designated inspector shall have the right to inspect the hives between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Where practicable, prior notice shall be given to the licensed beekeeper.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Signed and acknowledged before me by _____ in the County of King George, Virginia, this _____ day of _____, _____.

My Commission expires: _____

Notary Public: _____

DOMESTIC BEEKEEPING PERMIT APPLICATION

Beekeeping Best Management Practices

The recommended practices for maintaining honeybees in managed colonies include:

1. Comply with all homeowner association, local, state, and federal ordinances, regulations, and laws pertaining to beekeeping.
2. Maintain strong, healthy, populous colonies.
 - a. Remove or securely seal all empty hive equipment.
 - b. Remove or combine all weak colonies.
 - c. Treat or remove all disease and/or pest infested colonies.
 - d. Report disease and/or pest infested colonies to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Office of Plant and Pest Services (Department).
3. Practice proper management and control techniques to prevent colonies from swarming.
4. Maintain all colonies 10 feet away from property lines.
5. Barriers of no less than 6 feet in height should be sufficient density to establish bee flyways above head height.
6. Maintain a water source within 20 feet of colonies.
7. Consider relocating hives that are within 50 feet of any animal that is tethered, penned, kenned, or otherwise prevented from escaping a stinging incident.
8. Avoid opening or disturbing colonies when neighbors or the general public are participating in outside activities or using machinery within 150 of an apiary.
9. Maintain colonies with honeybee races certified as European honey bees (EHB).
 - a. Purchase queens, packaged bees, nucleus colonies, or established hives from certified EHB suppliers.
 - b. Requeen when making divisions and splits of established colonies.
 - c. Replace queens in all captured or trapped swarms within 30 days.
 - d. Replace queens in all colonies every two years.
 - e. Mark or clip queens prior to introduction to splits, swarms, and colonies.
 - f. Replace all unmarked or unclipped queens within 21 days of discovery.
10. Replace queens and destroy all drone brood in colonies exhibiting defensive behavior that may be injurious to the general public or domesticated animals.
 - a. Report all colonies suspected of being overly defensive or non-EHB to the Department of Agriculture.
 - b. Collect and submit samples of worker bees from the brood area of suspected non-EHB colonies to the Department of Agriculture.
 - c. Depopulate within 7 days of notification all colonies determined to be from a pure or hybrid non-EHB race.
11. Obtain queens from suppliers located outside of Africanized honey bee (AHB) infested areas and localities adjacent to AHB infested areas.
12. In the event that AHB is shown to occur in a locality where an apiary is located:
 - a. Annually replace queens in all colonies with queens produced from certified EHB stock.
 - b. Maintain a copy of EHB certification for all queens purchased.
 - c. Encourage the destruction of all captured or trapped swarms.
 - d. Requeen, within 14 days with certified EHB queens, any swarms captured or trapped in localities adjacent or in proximity to an AHB infested area.
 - e. Maintain and monitor at least one baited trap or hive in the vicinity of each apiary located in an AHB infested area.

Based on information provided by:

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services • Office of Plant and Pest Services
P.O. Box 1163 • Richmond, VA 23218 • Telephone: 804.786.3515 • FAX:804.371.7793
Email: VABees@vdacs.virginia.gov • Web: www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant&pest/apiary.shtml