



# CITY OF FAIRFAX

Community Development and Planning  
 10455 Armstrong Street, Room 207 • Fairfax, VA 22030  
 Phone: 703-385-7820 • Fax: 703-385-7824

## DOMESTIC BEEKEEPING PERMIT APPLICATION

**Application Fee: \$21.00**

### CITY CODE REQUIREMENT

Section 7-4. Permits and fees.

- (a) Any person who wishes to keep bees in the City of Fairfax shall obtain a permit prior to acquiring the honey bees.
- (b) The applicant for the permit shall provide written permission from the owner of the property if the applicant is not the owner.
- (c) Upon receipt and approval of a permit application, best practices list, plat showing proposed hive locations and payment of the fee, the zoning administrator may issue a non-transferable permit to the applicant.
- (d) The treasurer shall place all money collected by him for domestic beekeeping permits in the general fund of the city.

***CHECK WITH YOUR HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION TO ENSURE THAT BEEKEEPING IS PERMITTED BY YOUR HOMEOWNER COVENANTS AND GUIDELINES.***

### APPLICANT INFORMATION

Complete all sections. Please print legibly.

<b>Address of Hive(s) Location</b>	<b>Number of Hives</b>
<b>Parcel #</b>	<b>Zoning District</b>
<b>Name of Beekeeper (Last, First, MI)</b>	<b>Phone #</b>
	<b>E-mail</b>
<b>Property Owner Name (if different than above)</b>	<b>Phone #</b>
	<b>E-mail</b>

----- **City Staff Use Only** -----

- RECEIVED STAMP -

Receipt Number: \_\_\_\_\_

File #: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_

**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 honey bee 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 City Code Chapter 7 Domestic Beekeeping as well as all other zoning requirements.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Property Owner's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**APPLICANT AFFIDAVIT**

I have read, understand and agree:

- a) To comply with the ordinances and best practices applicable to domestic beekeeping.
- b) The city manager'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 the City Code, or any other applicable Virginia or local law or regulation pertaining to the keeping of bees.
- c) The city'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

# **DOMESTIC BEEKEEPING PERMIT APPLICATION**

## **Beekeeping Best Management Practices**

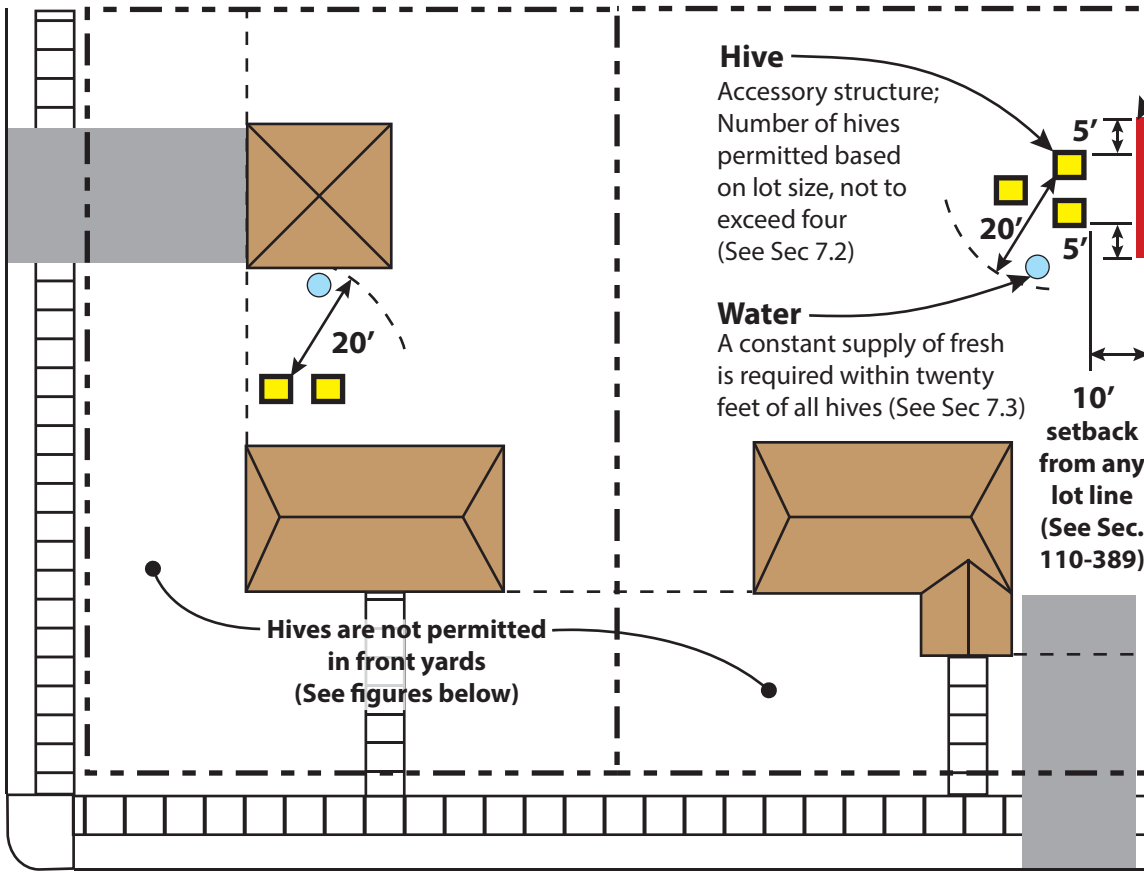
The recommended practices for maintaining honeybees in managed colonies include:

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 of sufficient density to establish bee flyways above head height.
6. Maintain a water source within 20 feet of colonies.
7. Consider relocating any hives that are within 50 feet of any animal that is tethered, penned, kenneled, 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 feet of an apiary.
9. Maintain colonies with honey bee 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.
  - b. Collect and submit samples of worker bees from the brood area of suspected non-EHB colonies to the Department.
  - 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](mailto:VABees@vdacs.virginia.gov) • Web: [www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant&pest/apiary.shtml](http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant&pest/apiary.shtml)

# Honeybee Hive Location Guide



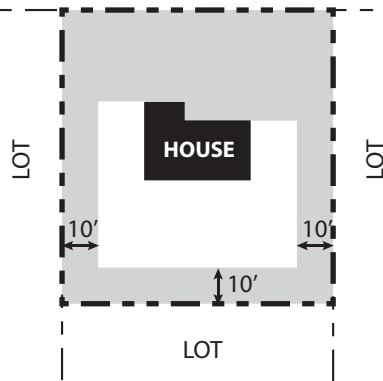
## Number of hives permitted

Lot Size	# of Hives
Larger than 5,000 sf but smaller than 1/4 acre	2 hives
Larger than 1/4 acre	4 hives

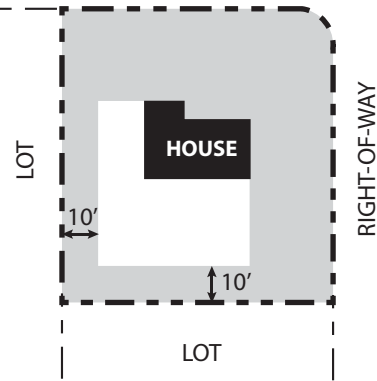
## Figures 1 - 5

■ = Areas where hives are not permitted on lots

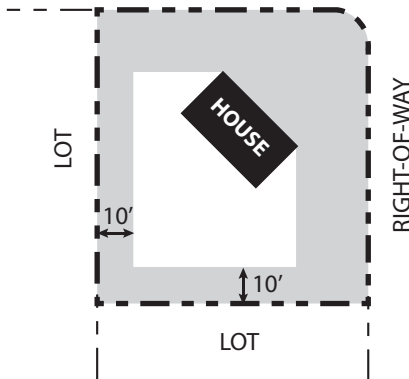
**Fig 1. Interior Lot**  
RIGHT-OF-WAY



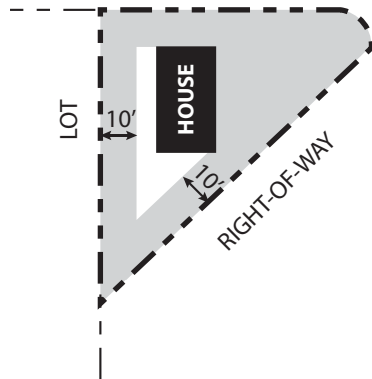
**Fig 2. Corner Lot**  
RIGHT-OF-WAY



**Fig 3. Diagonal House**  
RIGHT-OF-WAY



**Fig 4. Triangle Lot**  
RIGHT-OF-WAY



**Fig 5. Lot with Rear of House Facing Street**  
FRONT RIGHT-OF-WAY

