

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER

BYLAW NO. 7985

**A Bylaw to regulate the keeping of bees as a hobby within the
City of North Vancouver**

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 8(3)(k) of the Community Charter, S.B.C. 2003, c. 26 and amendments thereto, a Council may, by bylaw, regulate, prohibit and impose requirements in relation to animals;

AND WHEREAS the Bee Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 29 regulates the keeping and control of bees and beehive equipment and requires the registration of persons owning, possessing or keeping bees and beehive equipment, which regulations are paramount to this Bylaw where they are in conflict;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the City of North Vancouver, in open meeting assembled, hereby enacts as follows:

1. This Bylaw shall be known and cited for all purposes as the “**Hobby Bee Keeping Bylaw, 2009, No. 7985**”.
2. The purpose of this bylaw is to regulate the keeping of bees as a hobby by residents of the City of North Vancouver and to provide for education of the general public in Urban Apiculture.
3. Definitions

“**Apiary**” means a place where bees or beehive or beekeeping equipment is kept for the purpose of Hobby Bee Keeping or for an Educational Purpose;

“**Bee**” means the insect *Apis mellifera*;

“**Educational Purpose**” means the keeping of bees for the purpose of education of the general public in urban apiculture as part of an approved educational program;

“**Hive**” means beehive equipment inhabited by live bees;

“**Hobby Bee Keeper**” means a person who keeps, owns, controls or maintains up to two (2) bee hives on property upon which he or she resides;

“Educational Bee Keeper” means a person or agency who keeps, owns, controls or maintains up to two (2) bee hives for an Educational Purpose;

4. Registration of Apiaries

A person must not keep bees as a Hobby Bee Keeper or for an Educational Purpose except in an Apiary registered under the Bee Act, RSBC 1996, Chapter 29 and amendments thereto.

5. Location

(a) An Apiary shall comply with the following location requirements:

- (i) A Hobby Bee Keeper shall only keep bees within the RS-1 One Unit Residential Use Zone;
- (iii) An Educational Bee Keeper use shall be permitted on P-1 and P-2 zoned properties with the written consent of the property owner, or public road rights of way / civic community gardens with the consent of the City of North Vancouver.

(b) An Apiary shall comply with the following regulations:

- (i) A maximum of two (2) hives shall be permitted;
- (ii) Bee Hives for a Hobby Bee Keeper use shall be located to the rear of the principal building on the lot;
- (ii) Hives shall not be located within 7.5 meters of an adjacent property line unless in compliance with Section 5(c);
- (iii) Hobby Bee Keepers and Educational Bee Keepers shall deter other animals and protect hives from disturbance by animals by a suitable method of prevention, including but not limited to adequate fencing or hedging or motion sensed high-pitched deterrent devices.;
- (iv) Hives shall be located so that the entrance to the hive faces away from adjacent property dwellings.

(c) Hives may be permitted within 7.5 meters of an adjacent property line provided that the hive shall:

- (i) be raised a minimum of 2.5 meters above grade; or
- (ii) be behind a solid fence or hedge 1.83 meters in height located parallel to an adjacent property line and extending a minimum of 6.0 meters horizontally beyond the hive in either direction.

6. Responsibility

Every Hobby Bee Keeper and person who allows, permits or establishes the keeping of bees on their property has the duty to maintain, or to ensure the maintenance, of the bees in such a condition as will reasonably prevent swarming or aggressive behaviour by the bees, and if the bees do swarm or show signs of aggressive behaviour, to ensure that the bees are requeened.

7. Provision of Water

Every Hobby Bee Keeper and person who allows, permits or establishes the keeping of bees shall ensure that the bees have sufficient water available on the property upon which the Apiary is located to provide for the Apiary needs.

8. Enforcement

A Public Health Officer, Bylaw Enforcement Officer, Property Use Inspector, Member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or other municipal employee, or agent, duly authorized by Council to enforce municipal bylaws may enter upon any property to ensure compliance with the requirements of this bylaw.

9. Offences and Penalties

Any person

- (a) who violates any provision of this bylaw;
- (b) who causes or suffers or permits any act or thing to be done in contravention of or in violation of any of the provisions of this bylaw; or
- (c) who neglects to or refrains from doing anything required to be done by any of the provisions of this bylaw;

is guilty of an offence and is liable to the penalties imposed under this Bylaw or any other applicable Bylaw of the City, and is guilty of a separate offence each day that a violation continues to exist.

10. The City of North Vancouver, Bee Regulation Bylaw, 1927, No. 841 is hereby repealed and replaced with the City of North Vancouver, Hobby Bee Keeping Bylaw, 2009, No. 7985.

READ a first time by the Council
on the 20th day of April, 2009.

READ a second time by the
Council on the 20th day of April,
2009.

READ a third time and passed by
the Council on the 20th day of
April, 2009.

RECONSIDERED and finally
adopted by the Council, signed
by the Mayor and City Clerk and
sealed with the Corporate Seal
on the 25th day of May, 2009.

“Darrell R. Mussatto”

MAYOR

“Sandra E. Dowey”

CITY CLERK