



**TOWN OF BROOKLINE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Paid: \_\_\_\_\_  
Check #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspector \_\_\_\_\_  
Approval: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief: \_\_\_\_\_

*11 Pierce Street, Brookline, Massachusetts, 02445*  
*Telephone: (617) 730-2300 Facsimile: (617) 730-2296*  
*Website: www.brooklinema.gov*

**RESIDENTIAL - PERMIT FOR KEEPING OF ANIMALS**

**REQUEST PERMIT (Honeybees)**

**New: \$60 Renewal: \$25**

*Only non-aggressive honeybee (Apis Mellifera) are permitted*

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Primary Beekeeper (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Office/Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Numbers of Hives: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of the Premises Where Bee Hives are to be Kept:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Beekeeper Experience / Certificates:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Backup Beekeeper: \_\_\_\_\_

Source of Bees: \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the contents and requirements of this application packet and agree to the provisions in the Brookline Keeping of Animals Regulation.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*It is recommended that new applicants begin at the Zoning Department – form attached\*\*\***

**Please include the following documents to complete the application:**

- Zoning Board Approval \_\_\_\_\_
- Emergency Disaster Plan \_\_\_\_\_
- Plans for Swarm Suppression \_\_\_\_\_
- Set-up and Hive Structure \_\_\_\_\_
- Hive Maintenance Procedures \_\_\_\_\_
- Pest Control Procedures \_\_\_\_\_
- Abbuter Notification (completed by Health Dept) \_\_\_\_\_
- Permit Application Fee \_\_\_\_\_

**Examples of Conditions Established for Permit Issuance**

**Bees:**

- The beehive structure must comply with all applicable zoning bylaw requirements.
- Bees must be maintained in moveable-frame hives situated at least 4 inches off the ground to allow ventilation, limit pests, and reduce bottom entrance obstructions. The entrance of the beehive must be oriented to face the opposite direction of the nearest abutting property.
- A constant and adequate water source must be provided on site at all times. The water source should be drained and refilled periodically to prevent mosquito larvae growth and nuisance conditions.
- In the event of nuisance complaints regarding low flight paths of bees through abutting properties, the property owner is advised to install a reasonable physical structure to influence the bees to take a higher flight path as they enter and exit the beehives.
- Hives must be registered with Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources. Beekeeping operations must comply with all applicable regulations, inspections, and permitting standards as required by state law.
- The primary beekeeper must demonstrate to the Director of Public Health completion of a beekeeper training course with the Norfolk County Beekeeping Association or another training resource approved by the Director. Membership and active participation with the Norfolk County Beekeeping Association is recommended.
- If the property owner also serves as the primary beekeeper, an equally qualified beekeeper must be designated to maintain hive operations and respond to all nuisance complaints and other emergencies during any periods of extended absence or vacation by the property owner.
- An operations and emergency plan must be submitted to the Director that describes in detail:
  - a. Physical set-up and location of hives.
  - b. Routine hive maintenance and integrated pest management (IPM) procedures.
  - c. Corrective actions to be taken under potential nuisance conditions resulting from aggressive or objectionable bee behavior.
  - d. Planned response to possible acute damage to hive and swarm suppression measures. Contact information for qualified personnel to be contacted to assist during swarming and emergency scenarios must be included.
- The Brookline Health Department may reasonably conduct unannounced inspections of beekeeping facilities to ensure compliance with the aforementioned conditions and respond to any nuisance complaints.
- It is recommended that the applicant update their homeowner's insurance policy to cover beekeeping activities.

Please contact the Inspector of Animals at 617-730-2300 for questions/guidance.