Consolidated Version

of

# the Urban Beekeeping Bylaw

(being Bylaw No. 34/2017 of the City of St. Albert, as amended by Bylaw No. 5/2019, 51/2021, 29/2022, 17/2023, 19/2024, 22/2025 and 22/2026 consolidated and printed under the authority of the Chief Administrative Officer of the City of St. Albert)

This is certified to be a true copy of consolidated Bylaw No. 34/2017 of the City of St. Albert.

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**Marta Caufield**
Director of Legal, Legislative and Records Services
Chief Legislative Officer

## URBAN BEEKEEPING BYLAW REGISTER

| | BYLAW NUMBER | 1ST READING | 2ND READING | 3RD READING | SIGNED AND PASSED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 34/2017 | Sept. 5, 2017 | Sept. 5, 2017 | Sept. 5, 2017 | Sept. 11, 2017 |
| **AMD. #1** | 5/2019 | Jan. 21, 2019 | Jan. 21, 2019 | Jan. 21, 2019 | Jan 24, 2019 |
| **2** | 51/2021 | Aug. 30, 2021 | Sept. 13, 2021 | Sept. 13, 2021 | Sept 20, 2021 |
| **3** | 29/2022 | Sept. 19, 2022 | Oct. 17, 2022 | Oct. 17, 2022 | Oct 23, 2022 |
| **4** | 17/2023 | Sept 5, 2023 | Oct 3, 2023 | Oct 3, 2023 | Oct 3, 2023 |
| **5** | 19/2024 | Oct 1, 2024 | Oct 1, 2024 | Oct 1, 2024 | Oct 4, 2024 |
| **6** | 22/2025 | Sept 2, 2025 | Sept 16, 2025 | Sept 16, 2025 | Sept 18, 2025 |
| **7** | 22/2026 | Sept 1, 2025 | Oct 6, 2026 | Oct 26, 2026 | Oct 12, 2026 |

*The text shown in parentheses in various locations throughout this document identifies the corresponding amending bylaw which authorized the change. For example (BL 5/2019) refers to Bylaw No. 5/2019.*

# CITY OF ST. ALBERT

BYLAW 34/2017

A bylaw to regulate the keeping of bees in urban areas

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WHEREAS, pursuant to section 7(a) of the Municipal Government Act, a council may pass bylaws for municipal purposes respecting the safety, health, and welfare of people and the protection of people and property; AND

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 7(h) of the Municipal Government Act, a council may pass bylaws for municipal purposes respecting wild and domestic animals and activities in relation to them; AND

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 7(i) of the Municipal Government Act, a council may pass bylaws for municipal purposes respecting the enforcement of bylaws made under the Municipal Government Act or any other enactment including any or all of the matters listed therein; AND

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 8 of the Municipal Government Act, a council may by bylaw regulate, prohibit, or provide for a system of licences, permits, or approval including any or all of the matters listed therein.

The Council of the City of St. Albert, duly assembled, hereby ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

## PART 1

## TITLE

1. This Bylaw may be referred to as the “Urban Beekeeping Bylaw”.

## DEFINITIONS

2. In this Bylaw:

    a. “Adjoining Neighbours” means a site that is contiguous to another site along a common property line. If the subject site is located on a corner, an adjoining site includes a site that is adjacent across a rear lane, but not across a street;

    b. *“Animal Health Act”* means the *Animal Health Act*, SA 2007, C A-40.2, and any amending or succeeding legislation, and associated regulations;

c. “Bee” means the insect *Apis mellifera L*., also known as honey bees;

d. *“Bee Act”* means the *Bee Act*, RSA 2000, c B-2, and any amending or succeeding legislation, and associated regulations;

e. “Beekeeper” means a person who owns and possesses Bees or beekeeping equipment or both;

f. “Business Licence” means a licence pursuant to the Business Licence Bylaw 43/2000 and includes any amendments thereto or replacements thereof;

g. “Bylaw” means a bylaw of the City of St. Albert, and includes amendments thereto;

h. “Bylaw Enforcement Officer” means an individual appointed as such in accordance with the Bylaw Enforcement Officer Bylaw 21/2003;

h.1 “Chief Administrative Officer” or “CAO” means the individual appointed by Council to the position of Chief Administrative Officer under section 205 of the *Municipal Government Act* and pursuant to the Chief Administrative Officer Bylaw; **(BL 5/2019)**

i. “City” means the City of St. Albert, a municipal corporation of the Province of Alberta, and includes, where the context so requires, the area contained within the boundaries of the City of St. Albert;

j. DELETED **(BL 5/2019)**

k. “Council” means the City’s municipal council;

l. “Hive” means beehive equipment inhabited by live Bees;

m. “Licensing Authority” means the CAO or an individual appointed by the CAO to issue Urban Beekeeping Licences; **(BL 5/2019)**

n. “Municipal Violation Tag” means a City-issued notice that alleges a Bylaw offence and provides a person with the opportunity to pay an amount to the City in lieu of prosecution for the offence;

o. “Peace Officer” is as defined in the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act,* RSA 2000, c P-34, and any amending or succeeding legislation;

p. “Pedestrian Walkway” means a path, trail or sidewalk for pedestrian circulation that cannot be used for motorized vehicular use;

q. “Provincial Apiculturist” means the individual designated as the Provincial Apiculturist in accordance with the *Bee Act*;

r. “Super” means a Bee Hive box which holds frames used for brood rearing or storing honey;

s. “Urban Beekeeping Licence” means a licence issued pursuant to the Urban Beekeeping Bylaw; and

t. “Violation Ticket” is as defined in the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act* and any amending or succeeding legislation.

## PART 2

## URBAN BEEKEEPING LICENCE

### Requirement for Licence

3. This Bylaw enables beekeeping as urban agriculture and no person shall own or keep Bees unless properly licensed in accordance with this Bylaw.

4. An Urban Beekeeping Licence may not be issued to an individual under the age of eighteen (18) years.

### Urban Beekeeping Licence Application and Information

5. Before the issuance or renewal of a licence pursuant to this part, the owner of the Hive must submit to the Licensing Authority:

    a. a completed Urban Beekeeping Licence application form;

    b. the appropriate licence fee prescribed in Schedule A; and

    c. any other additional information required by the Licensing Authority, including, but not limited to:

        i. the name, address, and contact information of the Beekeeper;

        ii. written permission from the registered property owner to install Hives on the property, where the Beekeeper is not the registered property owner;

        iii. written permission from the authorized property leaseholder or licence holder to install Hives on property, where the Beekeeper is not the authorized leaseholder or licence holder of the property;

iv. a drawing that shows the Hive location on the property, and associated setbacks if there is no solid fence and/or the property is adjacent to a Pedestrian Walkway;

v. proof of success in urban beekeeping training from an accepted organization or association;

vi. proof of support and assistance from a qualified mentor for the first year of beekeeping;

vii. a disease and swarm control plan;

viii. proof of registration with the Provincial Apiculturist every year by June 30; and

ix. a copy of the premises identification number pursuant to the *Animal Health Act.*

5.1 Notwithstanding Section 5, at the time of initial application for an Urban Beekeeping Licence, the applicant must submit to the Licensing Authority written permission from all Adjoining Neighbours to install Hive(s) on the property.

6. An Urban Beekeeping Licence is required for each property that has a Hive.

7. Urban Beekeeping Licences are valid for one (1) year following the date of issuance.

8. No person shall give false information when applying for an Urban Beekeeping Licence pursuant to this Urban Beekeeping Bylaw.

9. The Licensing Authority may refuse to issue an Urban Beekeeping Licence or may revoke an Urban Beekeeping Licence by providing written notice to the applicant or licensee.

**Licence Transfers**

10. Urban Beekeeping Licences issued under this Bylaw shall not be transferable from one person or property to another.

## PART 3

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE URBAN BEEKEEPER

11. Beekeepers must comply with the *Bee Act* and the *Animal Health Act*.

12. Beekeepers, or the owner of any parcel of land on which the Bees are kept, must ensure:

    a. good husbandry practices and maintenance to prevent swarming, aggressive behaviour, and disease; and

    b. that adequate water is provided at all times for the Bees to deter the Bees from seeking water from alternate sources.

## PART 4

## URBAN BEEKEEPING GENERAL REGULATIONS

13. Beekeeping in parks, reserve land, or on open spaces occupied or managed by the City is not permitted under this Bylaw.

14. Notwithstanding section 13, applications to keep Bees may be considered for open spaces that are leased from the City, subject to permission from the lessee and the City.

15. This Bylaw applies to the activity of beekeeping for personal use only. A Business Licence is required for the commercial sale of bee products.

16. This Bylaw does not relieve a person from complying with any Federal or Provincial law or regulation, other City Bylaw, or any requirement of any lawful permit, order or licence.

## PART 5

## HIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR URBAN BEEKEEPING

### General Hive Requirements

17. A Hive must include a bottom board, a Hive cover, and a maximum of four (4) Supers. The Hive must not measure more than 127 cm (50 in.) x 51 cm (20 in.) x 51 cm (20 in.).

18. Hives are restricted to the rear yard of a property.

19. Hive entrances are to be directed away from adjoining properties.

20. Hives are to be located:

    a. a minimum of three (3) metres (10 feet) from all property lines; or

    b. within a rear yard enclosed by a solid fence or hedge a minimum of 1.8 metres (6 feet) in height.

21. Hives on properties located adjacent to Pedestrian Walkways must be located a minimum of three (3) metres (10 feet) from the property line adjacent to the Pedestrian Walkway and within a rear yard enclosed by a solid fence or hedge a minimum of 1.8 metres (6 feet) in height.

**Hives Located on Residential Properties**

22. A maximum of two (2) Hives are permitted on one (1) parcel of residential land.

**Hives Located on Non-Residential Properties**

23. A maximum of two (2) Hives are permitted on one (1) parcel of non-residential land with an area less than 929 $m^2$ (10,000 $ft^2$).

24. A maximum of four (4) Hives are permitted on one (1) parcel of non-residential land with an area equal to or greater than 929 $m^2$ (10,000 $ft^2$).

25. Hives located in open spaces, without defined rear yards, must be located a minimum of three (3) metres (10 feet) from all property lines and be located within a secure enclosure a minimum of 1.8 metres (6 feet) in height.

## PART 6

## ENFORCEMENT

**Offence**

26. At any reasonable time, the Licensing Authority or a Peace Officer may enter upon any property in order to ascertain whether or not the provisions of this Bylaw are being observed.

27. Should a beekeeping site, Hive, or Beekeeper be found to be non-compliant with this Bylaw at any time, the Urban Beekeeping Licence may be revoked. Should Hive(s) and Bees need to be relocated, all costs and associated expenditures related to the removal shall be the responsibility of the property owner.

28. A person who contravenes any provision of this Bylaw is guilty of an offence.

## Continuing Offence

29. In the case of an offence that is of a continuing nature, a contravention of a provision of this Bylaw constitutes a separate offence with respect to each day, or part of a day, during which the contravention continues. A person guilty of such an offence is liable to a fine in an amount not less than that established by this Bylaw for each such separate offence.

## Fines and Penalties

30. A Person who is guilty of an offence under this Bylaw is liable:

    a. to a fine of $250.00; or

    b. on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding $10,000.00 or to an order of imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or both.

## Municipal Violation Tag

31. A Peace Officer may issue, with respect to an offence under this Bylaw, a Municipal Violation Tag specifying the fine amount (including any Early Payment fine amount) established by this Bylaw.

32. Where a Municipal Violation Tag is issued, the fine amount indicated thereon may be paid as directed in lieu of prosecution.

## Violation Ticket

33. A Peace Officer may issue, with respect to an offence under this Bylaw, a Violation Ticket:

    a. specifying the fine amount established by this Bylaw; or

    b. requiring an appearance in court without the option of making a voluntary payment.

34. Where a Violation Ticket specifies a fine amount, a voluntary payment equal to the specified fine amount may be made as directed.

## Severability

35. In the event that any provision of this Bylaw is found to be contrary to law by any Court of competent jurisdiction then that provision shall be severed and the remainder of the Bylaw shall be of full force and effect.

## Certified Copy of Record

36. A copy of a record of the City, certified by the CAO as a true copy of the original, shall be admitted in evidence as prima facie proof of the facts stated in the record without proof of the appointment or signature of the person signing it. **(BL 5/2019)**

**Urban Beekeeping Bylaw 34/2017**
**SCHEDULE "A" – FEES**

**Effective January 1, 2027**

| Fee Description | 2027 |
|---|---|
| **Urban Beekeeping License Fee** | |
| Urban Beekeeping Licenses are valid for one (1) year following the date of issuance | $54.50 |

**(BL 51/2021, BL 29/2022, BL 17/2023, BL 19/2024, 22/2025, 22/2026)**