

---

# BEEKEEPING IN DERRY TOWNSHIP

---

Regulations for beekeeping were added to the 2017 Township Zoning Ordinance. The regulations are meant to be minimum standards to ensure harmony between beekeepers and their neighbors. They are as follows:

225-404.C. *Beekeeping shall be permitted as an accessory use in all zoning districts. The following regulations shall apply:*

1. *Colonies shall be maintained in moveable frame hives, with hives being no closer than 25 feet to any property line, and at least 50 feet from any dwelling located on an adjoining property.*
2. *All hives shall have access to an on-site water supply, whether it be a water-filled tank or from a natural water source located on the property.*
3. *Any beekeeper shall provide documentation that they are in compliance with Pennsylvania's Bee Law, 3 Pa. C.S.A. § 2101-§2117, which requires the owner of an apiary located in Pennsylvania to register the apiary with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.*

## **Rules of thumb for urban beekeeping**

(from Mid-Atlantic Apiculture Research and Extension Consortium)

- Keep only gentle colonies and employ good swarm management techniques.
- Keep no more than four hives on a property of 1/4 acre or less.
- All hives within 25 feet of a property line should have a solid fence or vegetative obstruction 5 feet or more in height between the hives and the property line.
- All hives within 30 feet of a public sidewalk or roadway should have a solid fence or dense vegetative obstruction or be elevated so as to direct the flight path of the bees well above traffic and pedestrians.
- An adequate supply of water should be provided by the property owner or beekeeper from March 1 to October 31.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

<http://www.pastatebeekeepers.org/inspection.htm>

<http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Protect/PlantIndustry/Apiary/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.pastatebeekeepers.org/pdf/Zoning.pdf>

<http://ento.psu.edu/extension/bees>