



BEEKEEPING

Health Local Law 2008

Beekeepers Act 1963

Introduction

Responsible beekeeping involves a range of practices that help to keep your honey bees healthy and productive while minimizing the potential harm or nuisance they may cause to other people. It also involves complying with the *WA Beekeepers Act 1963* and Council's *Health Local Law 2008*. There is a national standard for the keeping of bees, "National Best Practice for Beekeeping in the Australian Environment".

Legislation

Council's Health Local Law 2008 permits the keeping of a maximum of two hives on a lot under certain conditions such as:-

- Adequate a permanent supply of water is provided on the lot within 10 metres of the hive;
- The hive is kept outside and at least 10m from any building, footpath, street, private street or public place;
- The hive is kept outside and at least 5metres from the boundary of the lot;
- The hive is to be enclosed on all sides by a fence, wall or other enclosure;
- The bees are not to cause a nuisance.

Council officers can direct the removal of any hives if these conditions are not met.

The *WA Beekeepers Act 1963*, in addition to many other matters requires a beekeeper to be registered by the Department of Agriculture.

Nuisance Bees

Beehives kept in residential areas or close to sporting facilities and public buildings may become a nuisance. Think of the people around you as a bee sting could have serious consequences to a person with a bee sting allergy.

Honeybee stingers are barbed stingers that are left behind in the person's skin after the initial sting. If the stinger is removed by pinching the stinger, more venom is actually injected into the skin. It is better to remove the stinger by gently lifting the stinger using a fingernail or knife edge to flick the stinger out of the skin.

Allergic Reaction

Most insect-sting reactions are not allergic and result in local pain, itching, swelling, and redness at the site of the sting, however the allergic reaction to an insect sting varies from person to person.

Symptoms of an allergic reaction can include itching, hives, flushing of the skin, tingling or itching inside the mouth, and nausea or vomiting. The most serious allergic reaction is called anaphylaxis, which can be fatal. Difficulty breathing, swallowing, hoarseness, swelling of the tongue, dizziness, and fainting are signs of a severe allergic reaction. These types of reactions usually occur within minutes of the sting but have been known to be delayed for up to 24 hours. Prompt treatment is essential, and emergency help is often needed.

A person with an allergic reaction is treated with epinephrine (adrenaline). Several self-injectable devices are available by prescription, including Epi-Pen, ANA-Kit, and others.