

**CITY OF TSHWANE METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
BY-LAW ON THE KEEPING OF BEES**

To provide for a system of permits to regulate the keeping of bees in the municipal area; and to provide for incidental matters.

BE IT ENACTED by the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality, as follows :

Definitions

1. In these by-laws, unless the context indicates otherwise –

"Manager" means the person appointed by the Municipality as the head of the Section : Parks and Horticultural Services of the Municipality, or his or her duly authorised representative;

"Municipality" means the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality established by General Notice No. 6770 in *Provincial Gazette Extraordinary* No. 141 of 1 October 2000 in terms of the Local Government : Municipal Structures Act, 1998 (Act No. 117 of 1998).

Permits to keep bees

2. (1) A person may not keep bees on premises within the area of jurisdiction of the Municipality, except in terms of a permit, on application issued by the Manager on behalf of the Municipality.
- (2) Application for a permit must be made in writing on a form similar to Schedule 1, which must be signed by the applicant or his or her agent who has been duly aothorised in writing to do so, and must be submitted to the Manager.
- (3) The Manager must on receipt of an application for a permit establish all the relevant facts, and may after reasonable notice to the applicant inspect the premises where the bees will be kept.
- (4)(a) The Manager must within 14 days of receipt of an application for a permit –

- (i) refuse it if there is evidence, which on request has not been rebutted by the applicant, that the keeping of bees on the premises will constitute a public nuisance or a danger to human or animal life or that a condition contemplated in section 4(1) will not be complied with ; or
 - (ii) grant it if there is no such evidence.
- (b) if the application is refused, the Manager must inform the applicant accordingly, and must on request provide the applicant with written reasons for doing so.
- (c) (i) if the application is granted, the Manager must, on payment , subject to subparagraph (ii), by the applicant to the Municipality of the prescribed fee, issue the permit to the applicant on a form similar to Schedule 2 and include it in a record of permits issued.
- (ii) No fee is payable if the bees are kept in observation bee-hives for experimental or educational purposes only.

Duration of permit

- 3.(1) A permit issued under section 2(4)(c) is valid up to the first ensuing 30th of June following the date of its issue.
- (2) A permit holder may, at least one month before the expiry of the permit, apply in writing to the Manager for the renewal of the permit .
- (3) The Manager must renew the permit on a form similar to Schedule 3 if he or she is satisfied that the permit holder complies with section 4(1) and has paid to the Municipality the prescribed renewal fee, unless the bees are kept in observation bee-hives for experimental or educational purposes only.
- (4)(a) The Manager may at any time by notice served on a permit holder rescind the permit if there is convincing evidence, which on request has not been rebutted by the permit holder, that the permit holder does not comply with a provision of section 4(1) or that the keeping of the bees constitute a public nuisance or a danger to human or animal life.

- (b) A permit holder is not on account of the rescission of the permit under paragraph (a) entitled to a refund of any part of the fee paid in terms of section 2(4)(c) or subsection (3).

Conditions of permit

- 4.(1) A permit to keep bees is subject to the conditions –
- (a) that the bees must be kept in a bee-hive made of solid and weatherproof material and built in such a manner that honeycombs may be formed in frames that can be separated and removed from the bee-hive;
 - (b) that the bee-hive must be kept at least 100 metres from any residence, business premises or place where animals or birds are kept; and
 - (c) that the bee-hive must be surrounded by a wire fence, hedge or wall of at least 1,5 metres high and which is at least 5 metres from any part of the bee-hive.
- (2) The Manager may at any time, after reasonable notice to a permit holder, inspect the premises concerned to ascertain whether the conditions of the permit are complied with.

Removal or destruction of bees

- 5.(1) If a person keeps bees on premises without a permit or contrary to a condition contemplated in section 4(1), the Manager may serve a notice on the owner or occupant of the premises, to the effect that the bees must within the period stated in the notice be destroyed or removed to premises where they may be kept legally, otherwise they will be destroyed or removed by the Manager and the costs related thereto will be recovered from such owner or occupant.
- (2) If the owner or occupant fails to comply with a notice contemplated in subsection (1), the Manager may destroy or remove the bees and recover the costs related thereto from the owner or occupant concerned.
- (3) If the keeping of bees on premises constitute a danger to human life, the Manager may, on the authority of a warrant, destroy or remove the bees, without prior notice to the owner or occupant concerned, and recover the costs related thereto from such owner or occupant.

- (4) For the purposes of this section the owner or occupant of premises is also deemed to keep bees that have naturally settled on the premises concerned.

Service of notices

6. A notice contemplated in section 3(4)(a) or 5(1) is regarded to have been duly served if it has been handed over by the Manager to the permit holder or the owner or occupant concerned or to a member of his or her household, or to a person at his or her residence or place of employment, who is ostensibly over the age of 16 years.

Offences and penalties

- 7.(1) A person commits an offence if he or she –
- (a) keeps bees without a permit contemplated in section 2(4)(c) or 3(3);
 - (b) fails to comply with a condition of a permit contemplated in section 4(1); or
 - (c) prevents the Manager from executing his or her functions contemplated in section 2(3), 4(2), 5(2), 5(3) or 6.
- (2) A person convicted of an offence contemplated in subsection (1) is liable to a fine not exceeding R300,00.

Repeal of by-laws

8. These by-laws repeal any other by-laws on the keeping of bees that were previously in force in the Municipality.

Short title

9. These by-laws are called the Keeping of Bees By-laws, 2005.

SCHEDULE 1

CITY OF TSHWANE METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

**APPLICATION FOR A PERMIT AUTHORISING THE KEEPING OF BEES
WITHIN THE AREA OF JURISDICTION OF THE CITY OF TSHWANE
METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY**

Name of applicant:

Address of applicant:

.....

Address at which the hives will be kept:

.....

Trade name (if any):

Address:

 Yes No

State whether the hives will be kept solely for bona fide experimental or educational purposes ...

.....
Signature of applicant

.....
Date

Report of inspector

I inspected the above premises on and found that the applicant has met/has not met the requirements of the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality's By-laws relating to the Keeping of Bees.

The application is therefore recommended/not recommended.

.....
Signature

.....
Date

SCHEDULE 2

CITY OF TSHWANE METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

Housing, City Planning, Land and Environmental Planning Department
Parks and Horticultural Services Section
PO Box 1454
PRETORIA
0001

Date:

**PERMIT AUTHORISING THE KEEPING OF BEES WITHIN THE AREA OF
JURISDICTION OF THE CITY OF TSHWANE METROPOLITAN
MUNICIPALITY**

Name:

Address:

The above person is hereby authorised to keep bees on the premises known as
..... from the date of
this permit until 30 June, subject to the provisions of the City of
Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality's By-laws relating to the Keeping of Bees.

Permit fee: R.....

Receipt No:

.....
Manager: Parks and Horticultural Services

SCHEDULE 3

CITY OF TSHWANE METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

Housing, City Planning, Land and Environmental Planning Department
Parks and Horticultural Services Section
PO Box 1454
PRETORIA
0001

Date :

**RENEWAL OF PERMIT AUTHORISING THE KEEPING OF BEES WITHIN THE
AREA OF JURISDICTION OF THE CITY OF TSHWANE METROPOLITAN
MUNICIPALITY**

Name:

Address:

The above person is hereby authorised to keep bees on the premises known as
..... from the date
hereof until 30 June, subject to the provisions of the City of Tshwane
Metropolitan Municipality's By-laws relating to the Keeping of Bees.

Renewal fee: R.....

Receipt No:

.....
Manager : Parks and Horticultural Services