

## Douglas County Bees Policy on Extractions/Cut-outs/Swarms

It is the policy of Douglas County Bees (DCB) that any swarm, cut-out, or extraction sent out to the swarm call alert list becomes affiliated with the DCB group and therefore members who respond are representing DCB. This means the beekeeper should respect DCB in a professional manner and with the highest ethical standards. Remember that collecting swarms and extracting is a service to our community; priority is placed on getting to the swarm as fast as possible, not on ensuring that all swarm list members get bees. The beekeeper should follow these simple tenets to ensure a professional and courteous process:

- The safety of the caller and any bystander(s) is the first and most important consideration, followed by the safety of the beekeeper and finally the bees themselves. The beekeeper will always treat the bees in a humane manner.
- DCB does not charge for removals of swarms or established hives in an extraction or cut-out. Donations to DCB are always appreciated. Checks can be made payable to "Douglas County Bees" and is tax deductible. If an address is furnished, we will happily send a donation receipt.
- When working with swarms or extractions, the beekeeper is a representative and steward of the beekeeping community. Throughout the encounter, the beekeeper should be professional, courteous, and an information advocate for bees and all pollinators
- DCB does not carry personal or property insurance that would apply and is not responsible for the actions of the beekeeper.
- The notification of a swarm is from the Swarm Alert Chair's phone via a text message, the first beekeeper member to respond to the notification via calling the Swarm Chairperson back has the right to claim the swarm. The swarm call list can be large and multiple responding messages on a call can be confusing. If you have any questions, CALL the Swarm Alert Chair's phone number and actually speak to him/her.
- Inclusion of the swarm call list and the cut-out waiting list is limited to DCB paid members in good standing on a "rolling year" basis. Members receiving notification of swarms should not forward the information to any other person.
- A rolling year basis constitutes a 12 consecutive month history from the current membership renewal.
- The beekeeper should announce their intent to capture the swarm only if they can handle the situation and will represent DCB and the beekeeping community in a professional manner. The beekeeper should contact the caller and assess the situation as soon as possible.
- The beekeeper should make every reasonable effort to respond to the location in an expeditious manner or they should not publicize their intent to collect the swarm. The beekeeper should accept responsibility for a swarm call only if they can respond that day, usually within a couple hours, at the latest. If an arrangement has been made with the caller, or if it is late in the day (within two - three hours of sundown), it is defensible to allow the warm to sit overnight if the beekeeper will be on site first thing the next morning.
- The beekeeper will make every reasonable effort to retrieve the entire colony. This could mean leaving the swarm retrieval box until sundown and returning to collect it once the foragers and scouts have an opportunity to return to their colony. If the beekeeper leaves the swarm box in a public area, sufficient information should be left at the scene to notify the public or anyone who may encounter the box.

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## For Swarms:

When arranging to meet the caller and retrieve the swarm, the beekeeper should explain accurately when help will be arriving, who will be meeting them and if there will be additional people involved.

Other beekeepers should not show up at the site unless prior arrangements have been made with the first responding person.

The beekeeper should make every effort to bring all the necessary equipment to the site and not rely on or ask the caller to provide equipment and materials.

The beekeeper must have the permission of the property owner, apartment manager, store manager, or other person with the authority to give permission for the removal. If the bees are in a utility box or cable TV box, the beekeeper must contact the company for permission before proceeding.

If it is necessary to modify a structure to gain access to the swarm or extraction, the homeowner/building owner needs to be advised that they are responsible for any repairs or re-construction after the hive is removed. It is highly recommended to have a contractor involved in removing.

After the beekeeper has successfully collected a swarm, please do not claim an additional swarm unless no other member has claimed it an hour after the initial notification or in such case as a notification of "LAST CALL" has been issued on the swarm call alert system.

## For Cut-Outs and Extractions:

The Cut-Out/Extraction Chair will co-ordinate the date of the event. (see Cut-Out/Extraction Chair duties)

Recipients of the bees from scheduled Cut-Outs/Extractions will be the next DCB Member name on the BEE LIST. This is a "waiting list" and each member wishing to be on this list has the sole responsibility to inform the Cut-Out/Extraction chair that they would like their name to be added to the this list.

Members eligible to be placed on the "waiting list" to receive bees from a cut-out must be a member in good standing and have assisted with a minimum of three prior cut-outs in a rolling year designated to other members. This does not include attending a cut-out as an observer to watch and learn. (see DCB Constitution and Bylaws Article IV, Section 1) "Assisted" indicates a job is assigned at the extraction point, the cut-out table, cookie sheet runner, operating a bee vacuum to collect bees, set-up/take-down/clean up, etc.

Members desiring to accept the bees from scheduled Cut-Outs/Extractions are to help perform the work during the event and provide as much of their own equipment as possible to do the work. (I.E. frames, boxes, transport bins, bottom boards, top covers, rubber bands, tools (if applicable), painters tape slings, push pins/thumb tacks, bath size towels, 5 gal. sized buckets, garbage can liner bags, etc.)

Once a DCB Member receives Cut-Out/Extraction bees and desires to have another group of bees, their name is added to the bottom of the list and the "waiting" for their next turn to come up at the top of the list begins. Each member wishing to be on this list again, has the sole responsibility to inform the Cut-Out/Extraction chair that they would like their name to be added to the this list again.