

Africanized Honey Bees and Your Pets and Livestock

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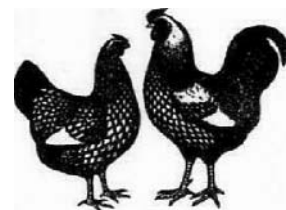
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Africanized honey bees (the so-called “killer bees”) arrived in Arkansas in 2005. Some colonies of Africanized honey bees defend their nests with more vigor and in greater numbers than the common European honey bee. When bees defend their colonies, they target furry and dark-colored objects that resemble their natural enemies: bears and skunks. Therefore, your pets are likely to be stung when bees are disturbed. Animals that are penned or tied up near honey bees are in special peril.

- **Do not pen, tie or tether animals near known bee hives or nests.** Keep animals away from apiaries and bee nests. Bees may seem docile at first, but don't take chances.



- **Do not disturb or tease bees EVER, and do not try to remove bees yourself.** Do not shoot at, throw rocks at or pour gasoline on bee nests. This will only arouse the bees. Also, do not attempt to control them with aerosol pesticides.
- **Do keep pets and children indoors when using weed eaters, hedge clippers, tractors, power mowers, chain saws, etc.** Honey bees are sensitive to odors, such as the smell of cut grass, and to loud vibrations. Attacks frequently occur when a person is mowing the lawn or pruning shrubs and trees and inadvertently strikes a bee nest.
- **Do keep dogs under control when hiking.** A dog bounding through the brush is more likely to disturb bees than one following quietly at your heels.

Do's and Don'ts

- **Do look regularly for bee colonies around your property.** Honey bees nest in a wide variety of locations. They may nest in such diverse sites as animal burrows in the ground, water meter boxes or in overturned flower pots. Sometimes honey bees may nest in the open in trees or shrubs. Look for active bees, and listen for a buzzing or humming sound in the ground, in trees and shrubs or in block walls. If you find a colony of bees, consult your local Cooperative Extension Office or the Arkansas State Plant Board (501-225-1598) directly for instructions.

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