

The Bees Get A New Home

The story of moving a live
beehive out of my house

Story and Photography by Rich Poser



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How it began:

One sunny
afternoon I saw
some bees high up
on the front of my
house.

They were above
the garage under
the wood that
frames the roof.



When there are too many bees in a hive a queen may leave with some of the bees to find a place to build a new hive. They sometimes rest on the side of a house or a tree. It is called a swarm.

Most of the time they just fly away after a few days.

But the next day there seemed to be even more bees.



They seemed to all be in the same spot. Some would fly away and then return. It looked like they were going in and out of the house.

It didn't seem like they were leaving soon. It looked like they were building a new hive right inside my house.



What To Do???

Bees are very important to farmers. They fly from flower to flower and gather nectar and pollen. The bees use this to make honey which they eat.

As they fly in and out of the flowers they help the plants and vegetables to grow. Without bees we would have no more food to eat. Everything we eat comes in part from their hard work.

So, I didn't want to hurt the bees. I just wanted them to go somewhere else to build their hive.



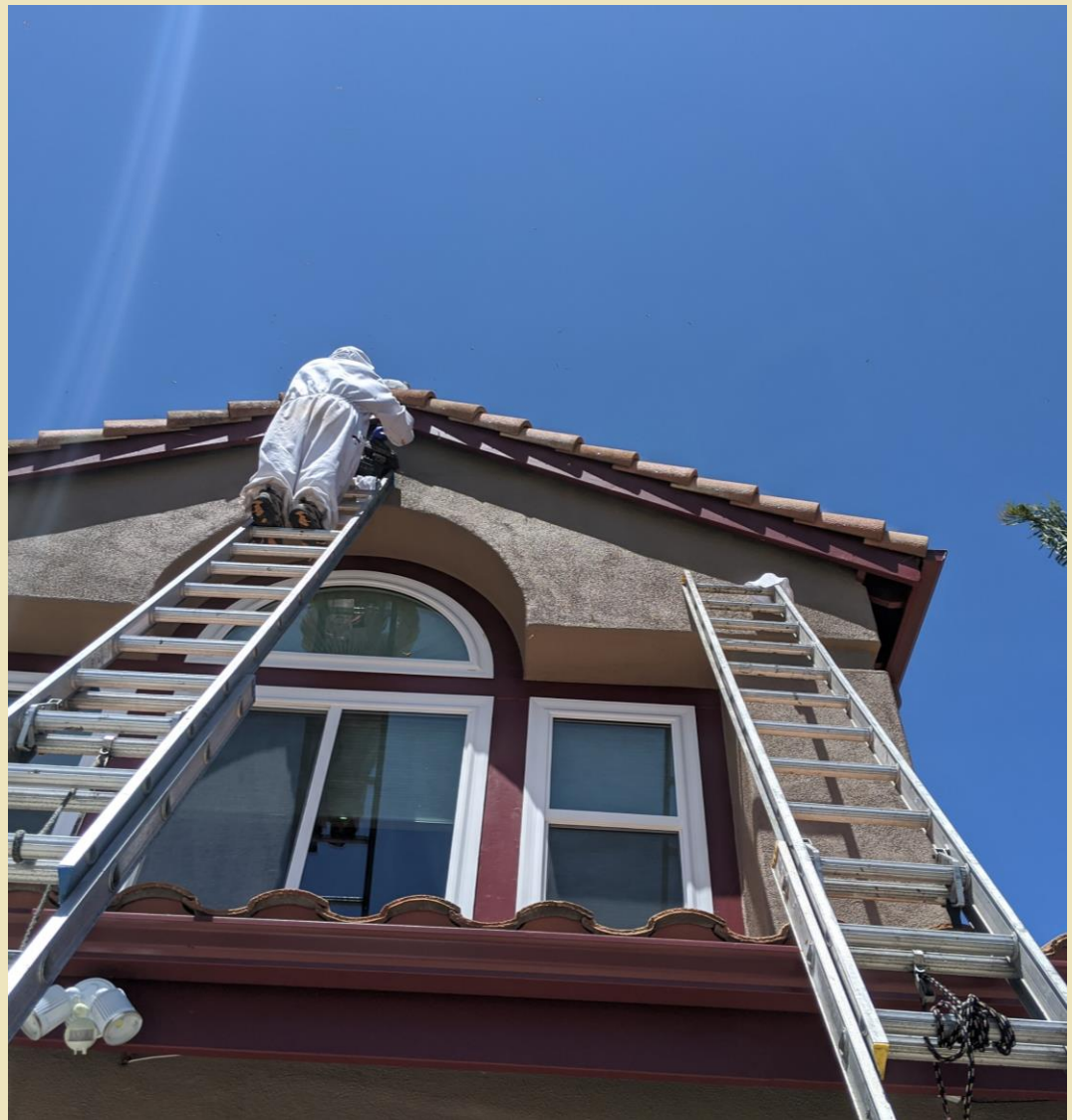
Live Bee Removal

Most bug exterminators kill the bees by pumping chemicals into the wall. This is very bad for the bees, and it also leaves the hive, dead bees and honey behind inside the walls or roof of the house. Other bees will be drawn to the honey, as well as ants, rats and other insects.

I found Bee Man Dan. His company is called "We Save Bees". They are trained to remove the entire hive and all the bees without hurting them. Then the bees can be moved to beekeepers who can use them on farms.



Dan and his assistant Sierra arrived and raised two big ladders, all the way up to the roof.



Then they climbed up the ladders and sat right on top of the roof.

Would you be brave enough to sit on a roof with bees flying all around you ?!?!





Dan and Sierra are wearing protective clothing, heavy rubber gloves and special masks so the bees can't sting them. Every inch of their skin is covered by the protective fabric.



They got to work and figured out where the bees had entered the roof and where the hive was. They removed the roofing tiles, the black roof felt and cut the plywood of the roof. What do you think they will find under the plywood??



They Found the Bees!!!!



The bees had built a hive of honeycombs, which is made of the white wax you can see here. The openings, or cells of the comb are filled with honey or larvae, which are the baby bees before they have wings.

The comb is attached to the wood and hangs down into the space under the roof.

This hive hung down over four feet and contained over 30,000 bees and 20 pounds of honey!! Somewhere in there is the Queen Bee who lays all the eggs.



Dan and Sierra got to work taking out the pieces of comb and as many bees as they could.





They brought a big empty box up to the roof.
This would be the bees' new home for now.



Then they put the pieces of comb into wooden frames which would go into the box.



After they had taken all the combs out, they reached down as far as they could. They gently scooped up handfuls of bees and put them into the box. Once the Queen Bee is in the new hive the other bees will stay with her.





After they got out as much of the comb and honey and bees as they could reach, they saw there was still a lot of honey that had melted and dripped so far down in the wall they could not reach it from the roof.

So, they left the roof open and the hive box next to the opening for another week. That way the bees could go inside and eat the honey. That's much easier then trying to get down into the wall! This also lets any bees that were out looking for pollen and nectar to come back to the new hive.



A week later Dan and Sierra came back and found the bees had eaten all the honey from deep inside the walls. This was what they had wanted them to do. Dan was able to cover the inside of the roof and walls with a special paint that would stop the bees from coming back.



Then they closed the hole and fixed the roof, good as new.



They also closed any opening where other bees might find their way into the roof.



A New Home

30,000 bees and their queen left my house in their cardboard box hive. They were soon moved to a permanent wooden hive box at the beekeepers. From this new home they were sent out to work in farms all around San Diego to make the flowers and vegetables grow.

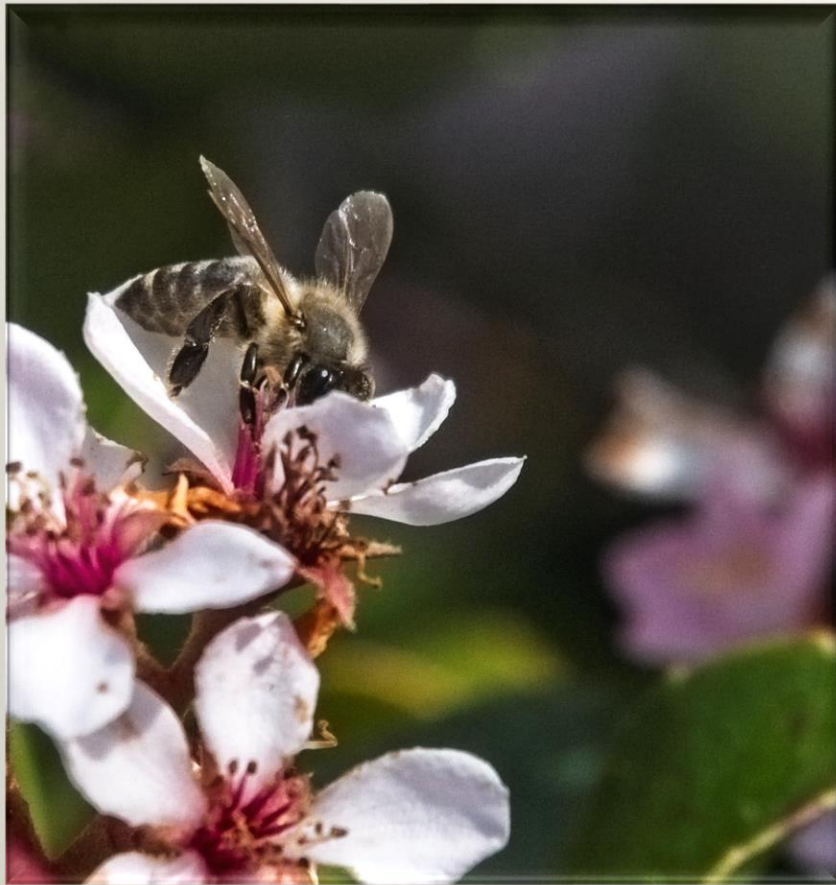




The bees are back to work from their new home. They are flying from flower to flower in the farms and gardens.

Here's one busy bee, happy to have been safely moved from my house to their new home.





Story and photographs by Rich Poser

No bees were harmed in the making of this story 😊

Thanks to Bee Man Dan at We Save Bees for his work to relocate bees and permission to use the rooftop pictures.



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