



WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN THE BROOD BOX WHEN DOING A HIVE INSPECTION

COMB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are bees building straight? Is there cross comb or burr comb? • Has the wax darkened? – Must it be cycled out/replaced? • Is there sufficient room for eggs, pollen and nectar/honey?
BROOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the queen laying? What is the pattern like? Spotty or solid? • How many frames have brood? • Is there one egg per cell? • Condition of larvae? Pearly white? Discoloured? • Are wax cappings uniform in size and colour? • Perforations? Sunken caps? (Do a match stick test for roping) • How much drone brood is there?
NECTAR & HONEY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the honey stored in an arc above brood? Entire comb face? • Is watery nectar present • Does the hive have sufficient honey for their own use? (Min 2 full frames)
POLLEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Below arc of honey towards top of frame? each cell $\frac{3}{4}$ filled? • Different colours of pollen (variety of food) • Sufficient pollen for hive? (Roughly 1 cell pollen per bee)
QUEEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the queen moving around normally on face of comb? • Is her abdomen enlarged? (full of eggs) • Does she have a retinue of attendants? (check for petal formation around her)
Queen Cups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are queen cups present on frames? • Are they empty? (No need to remove). • Are they filled with larvae? What action? (refer Queen Cells)
Queen Cells	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for elongated, peanut shaped cells. • If on sides and bottom of frames, usually many – swarm cells – intervention required to prevent swarming (may be too late already) • If in centre of frame, usually only 1 – supersedure – no action required • Anywhere on frame, but small/odd shape – emergency cell – consider intervention – bees are in crisis
BEE'S Appearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General health? • Wings – deformed? Odd angle? • Do bees have hair? • Greasy, lethargic? • Strength of numbers?
Sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'roar'? (possibly queen less) • Flighty, aggressive? (check for pests/adequate food) • Gentle hum?
Smell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm wax and honey smell is normal • Fermented aroma or fishy odour? (Check for disease)