

CAUTION: LIVE BEES!

What's happening here?

A local beekeeper is collecting a swarm of honey bees. The queen bee is already in the box, and the rest of the bees are following her pheromone scent into it.

The beekeeper will return this evening to take the bees to a hive where they can live safely. Please don't open or move the box, or interfere with the bees. They're docile and unlikely to sting when they're in a swarm because they have no hive to protect, but it's still best to watch them from a distance of 6 feet or more.

If you have any questions about this box, call or text:

Why did they make a swarm?

Honey bee colonies (hives) reproduce by raising a second queen bee and splitting into two hives. The new queen and some of the worker bees stay behind in the old hive, and the old queen leaves with the other workers to find a new place to live.

The bees don't know where they're going when they leave the hive, so the swarm rests on a branch or similar place while scout bees search the area.

The bees stay in a clump to keep warm. Someone noticed the clump and contacted the Alameda County Beekeepers Association (www.alamedabees.org). The association asks a nearby member to collect them to make sure the bees don't move somewhere they aren't wanted.

If you ever see a swarm or clump of bees, just search the Internet for "Alameda County bee swarm" to report it to the ACBA. Someone will usually be able to remove it the same day, for free.