

Chapter 167WEAPONS**Sections:****167-1 DEFINITIONS****167-2 DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS****167-3 DISCHARGE OF PNEUMATIC GUNS****167-4 DISCHARGE OF MISSILE PROJECTING WEAPONS****167-5 THROWING OF STONES****167-6 URBAN ARCHERY****167-7 VIOLATIONS**

Adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Front Royal 3-11-85 (*Chapter 32 of the 1965 Code including former 32-1 "Carrying of Concealed Weapons" was amended from "Carrying Pistols, Dirks, etc" 5-14-84; former 32-7 "Possession of Weapons on Parks or Other Recreational Areas" was enacted 2-24-75; former 32-2 "Furnishing Pistols, Dirks, etc. to Minors under Eighteen Years of Age" was deleted at time of adoption 3-11-85; 167-3 "Discharging of Firearms and Other Missile-projecting Devices was amended at time of adoption in 1985). 167-1 "Carrying of Concealed Weapons" was repealed 5-14-07; 167-5 "Possession of Weapons in Parks and Recreation Areas" was amended to remove "pistol, rifle, shotgun" 5-14-07; Entire Chapter amended by Ord. 3-12 on 1-23-12. Other amendments noted where applicable.*

167-1 DEFINITIONS

ARROW – A shaft-like projectile intended to be shot from a bow.

AMMUNITION – A cartridge, pellet, ball, missile, or projectile adapted for use in a weapon.

BOW – Any longbow, recurve bow, compound bow, or crossbow having a peak draw of 10 pounds or more, intended and capable of shooting an arrow. The "bow" does not include bows that have a peak draw of less than 10 pounds or are intended to be used principally at toys.

FIREARM – Any weapon which will, or is designed to, or may be readily converted to, expel a projectile, or in which ammunition may be used or discharged by explosion; provided, however, that stud nailing guns, rivet guns, and similar construction equipment neither designed nor intended as weapons, shall not be deemed firearms.

PNEUMATIC GUN – Any implement designed as a gun that will expel a BB pellet, or other ammunition by action of pneumatic pressure. This definition shall include a paintball gun that expels by action of pneumatic pressure plastic balls filled with paint for the purpose of marking the point of impact.

REASONABLE CARE – The use of pneumatic guns such that the gun is being discharged so that its BBs, pellets, or other ammunition will be contained on the property by a backstop, earthen embankment or fence. The discharge of BBs, pellets, or other ammunition across or over the bounds or property shall create the rebuttable presumption that the use of the pneumatic gun was not conducted with reasonable care.

TOWN COUNCIL – The Town Council of the Town of Front Royal, Virginia.

167-2 DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS

A. No person shall discharge a firearm of any description within the Town, with the exception of the following:

1. Any law enforcement officer in the performance of official duties;
2. Any other person whose said willful act is otherwise justified or excusable at law in the protection of life or property, or is otherwise specifically authorized by law. This shall not apply to control of wildlife by non law enforcement personnel;

(Amended (2) 3-28-16-Effective Upon Passage)

3. Any otherwise lawful discharge while actually engaged in target practice on shooting ranges or other facilities lawfully established and maintained;
4. The use of blank ammunition at athletic events, military funerals, theatrical performances or events of similar character; or,
5. Taking of a deer under a kill permit pursuant to Code of Virginia § 29.1-529.

(Amended (5) 3-28-16-Effective Upon Passage)

167-3 DISCHARGE OF PNEUMATIC GUNS

A. It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge any pneumatic gun in the Town that are in the opinion of the Town Council so heavily populated as to make such conduct dangerous to the inhabitants thereof:

1. In or within 300 feet of any dwelling, commercial building, or shelter for animals, with the exception of the following:
 - a. Any otherwise lawful discharge while actually engaged in target practice on shooting ranges or other facilities lawfully established and maintained;
 - b. On other property where firearms may be legally discharged; or,
 - c. On private property with permission of the owner or legal possessor thereof when conducted with reasonable care to prevent a projectile from crossing the bounds of the property.

B. It shall be unlawful for any minor under the age of 16 to use a pneumatic gun unless such minor is under the supervision of a parent, guardian, or other adult supervisor approved by a

parent or guardian of such minor. Minors above the age of 16 may, with the written consent of a parent or guardian, use a pneumatic gun on private property with the consent of the owner. Any minor, whether permitted by a parent or guardian to use a pneumatic gun or not, shall be responsible for obeying all laws, regulations, and restrictions governing such use.

167-4 DISCHARGE OF MISSILE PROJECTING WEAPONS

A. It shall be unlawful to discharge any non-firearm or non-pneumatic missile projecting gun or weapons to include bows, crossbows, and slingshots within the Town, with the exception of the following:

1. Any law enforcement officer in the performance of official duties;
2. Any other person whose said willful act is otherwise justified or excusable at law in the protection of life or property, or is otherwise is specifically authorized by law;
3. Any otherwise lawful discharge while actually engaged in target practice on shooting ranges or other facilities lawfully established and maintained; and,
4. Lawfully hunting wildlife pursuant to the Urban Archery regulations provided below.

(Amended (4) by adding “wildlife” in place of “deer” 9-23-13-Effective Upon Passage)
(Amended (4) 3-28-16-Effective Upon Passage)

5. Target shooting of bows and crossbows is permitted with appropriate backstop on property with written consent of the owner of the property.

(Added (5) 3-28-16-Effective Upon Passage)

167-5 THROWING OF STONES

It shall be unlawful for any person to throw a stone or other missile in the streets or public property with the intent to do harm to people, animals, or property.

167-6 URBAN ARCHERY

Archery hunting is permitted within the Town limits by licensed hunters during an approved Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) Archery Season. In addition to the urban archery season for deer, archery deer hunting is also allowed during the early archery deer season, the general firearms deer season, and the late archery deer season. Hunting for other wildlife is permitted only during the season approved by DGIF. Licensed archery hunters must abide by all applicable sections of the Virginia State Code and Virginia Hunting Regulations (including bag limits and tagging/checking requirements). It shall be unlawful for any person, while archery hunting, to violate any of the following additional Town restrictions:

- A. Discharge of an arrow is permitted only in order to hunt wildlife in season or for target practice. No discharge of an arrow shall be made toward any animal other than those in approved hunting season.
- B. Any person discharging archery equipment shall, at all times while engaged in such activity, have in their possession written permission from the landowner(s) to discharge such weapon on the private property. Approval from landowner(s) of a total aggregate, contiguous area of one-half (1/2) acres at minimum is required to conduct archery hunting.
- C. No person shall discharge archery equipment from, over, or across any street, sidewalk, alley, roadway, or public place within the Town limits or toward any building or dwelling in such a manner that an arrow may strike it.
- D. No person shall discharge archery equipment unless from an elevated position of at least ten (10) feet above the surrounding terrain. Any disabled hunter unable to hunt from such platform must comply with all regulations established by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.
- E. Except for target shooting, discharge of archery equipment is not permitted within one hundred (100) feet of any dwelling except with written consent of the owner of said structure.
- F. Discharge of archery equipment is not permitted within one hundred (100) feet of any school property line. Use of archery equipment on school property for school sanctioned activities shall be excluded from this restriction.
- G. Any person discharging archery equipment shall use reasonable care to ensure the arrow does not cross any property line and enter any property on which the hunter does not have permission to hunt. The discharge of an arrow across or over the boundaries of a property for which no permission has been given by the property owner shall create a rebuttable presumption that the use of the archery equipment was not conducted with reasonable care.
- H. The hunter is responsible for the disposition of the animal carcass to the local/regional landfill. Carcasses shall be double bagged. Field dressing of the animal shall be by agreement between the landowner and the hunter. No field dressing of the animal shall occur on Town owned property without express written permission from the Town Manager or designee.
- I. No person shall hunt within the Town limits by use of dog or dogs.

(Added Entire Section 3-28-16-Effective Upon Passage)

167-7 VIOLATIONS

A. Violations of this Section involving firearms shall constitute a Class 1 misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) and twelve (12) months in jail.

(Amended 3-28-16 by changing Class and adding fines-Effective Upon Passage)

B. Violations of this Section involving pneumatic guns, missile projecting weapons, or throwing stones shall constitute a Class 4 misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).

C. Violations of the Urban Archery Section shall constitute a Class 1 misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) and twelve (12) months in jail.

(Added (C) 3-28-16-Effective Upon Passage)

(Ord. No. 3-12 Amended Entire Chapter/Section 1-23-12-Effective Upon Passage)