

“ARCHERY IN FORT THOMAS”

INFORMATIONAL BROCHURE

On December 17, 2007, the City of Fort Thomas City Council adopted an ordinance which permits individuals to discharge arrows from either bows or crossbows in the city when certain criteria are strictly followed. This brochure is meant to explain the provisions of the ordinance. However, Section 95.05 of the Fort Thomas Code of Ordinance prevails over the language in this brochure and should be carefully reviewed to ensure compliance before discharging an arrow.

Information is presented in three parts. Section one is an outline of the terms of the discharge ordinance. Section two is a list of frequently asked question. Section three provides a list of suggestions. And section four is a list of helpful contact information.

SECTION ONE

The discharge ordinance adopted by council is NOT a deer hunting ordinance. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is responsible for regulating hunting in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Kentucky cities are not permitted by state law to regulate hunting. The ordinance adopted by the City of Fort Thomas instead regulates the discharge of arrows from bows or crossbows. The following outlines the conditions under which arrows can be discharged.

1. Arrows can only be discharged during the Kentucky archery season for deer or pursuant to the terms of a depredation permit issued by the Kentucky Division of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Arrows cannot be discharged outside of the Kentucky archery season for deer unless a depredation permit has been issued.
2. The person discharging the arrow must be the owner of the property on which the arrow is being discharged, or must have the permission from the owner of the property.
3. The person discharging the arrow must be at least 200 feet from a structure, house, apartment, business establishment, road, highway, expressway, railroad track, or park boundary – in the direction the arrow is aimed and intended to travel.
4. The person discharging the arrow must be at least 50 feet from a structure, house, apartment, business establishment, road, highway, expressway, railroad track, or park boundary – to the left or right of the direction the arrow is aimed and intended to travel.
5. There is no distance restriction behind the person discharging the arrow.
6. The arrow must be shot in a manner in which it will not leave the property from which it is being discharged. In other words, the arrow is not permitted to leave the property from which it is being discharged.
7. The person discharging the arrow must be closer than 35 yards (105 feet) to the target, regardless if the target is a fixed target or deer.
8. If a person kills a deer in Fort Thomas, city ordinance requires that all blood and internal organs be removed from the city. No one is permitted to bury, burn or set out for trash collection any blood or internal organs from field dressing a deer.

SECTION TWO

Following is a list of questions which are regularly asked by individuals desiring to hunt deer in the City of Fort Thomas.

1. **Can I hunt deer in a park?** No. Because individuals desiring to discharge a bow must have the property owner’s permission, no one can hunt in a park. The city is not granting permission to anyone to discharge a arrow or to hunt in any of its parks.
2. **Do I have to have a hunting license?** Yes. While the city does not, and cannot, regulate hunting, any person who discharges an arrow for the purpose of hunting in the City of Fort Thomas is required to comply with all of Kentucky’s hunting regulations. Any individual desiring to hunt in the City of Fort Thomas is encouraged to check with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to ensure compliance with state hunting laws.

3. **How many deer am I allowed to shoot?** The city does not, and cannot, regulate hunting. Therefore, any individual desiring to hunt in the City of Fort Thomas must comply with KDFWR requirements, including limits on the number and gender of deer.
4. **Do I have to check in or out with the city before I hunt?** No. However, in order to determine the number of deer being removed from the city, we strongly encourage anyone who removes a deer to contact the police department to let them know the number of deer and the location of removal.
5. **If I'm only shooting at a fixed target in my back yard do I have to have a hunting license?** No. So long as the person discharging an arrow is doing so for non-hunting purposes, no hunting license is required. However, no arrow may be discharged from a bow or crossbow except during Kentucky's archery season for deer.
6. **How do I measure to make sure I meet the distance requirements?** The individual can either measure the distance by hand, or go to the Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission's website and measure using their GIS mapping tool. The website is <http://www.linkgis.org/mapping.html> . Click on "Public Access" then "Other Searches" then highlight Fort Thomas and hit "Go." Continue to zoom to the property from which you desire to hunt. Then use the measuring tool to determine if the property meets the 200 feet and 50 feet distance requirements. You can also contact the NKAPC offices at 859-331-8980. The City of Fort Thomas will not measure the distance for you.
7. **Can I place corn or a salt block in the area I want to hunt?** No. The City of Fort Thomas recently adopted an ordinance that does not permit anyone to intentionally feed deer. Additionally, KDFWR has established regulations pertaining to baiting deer for hunting purposes.
8. **Can I use a tree stand?** Yes. As long as all conditions of the city's discharged ordinance are complied with, a tree stand may be used.
9. **Can I go onto someone else's property to retrieve a deer that I shot?** Only if the owner of that property gives you permission.
10. **What do I do if after shooting a deer a neighboring property owner will not give me permission to retrieve the deer?** Contact the Fort Thomas Police Department. A police officer will attempt to speak with the property owner. If the property owner does not grant permission, then they are responsible for disposal of the carcass.
11. **Are there fines if I violate the city ordinance?** Yes. The fine for violating any section of the discharge ordinance is up to \$250 per violation. The violation of multiple sections of the ordinance will be counted as separate offenses. For example, if someone discharges an arrow (1) without the property owner's permission, (2) less than 200 feet from a structure in the direction the arrow was aimed, (3) less than 50 to the left or right from a structure, (4) more than 35 yards from the intended target, and (5) the arrow leaves the property from which it was shot, then the person would be subject for fines up to \$1,250 and forfeiture of equipment used when committing the violation.

SECTION THREE

Following is a list of suggestions for individuals desiring to hunt deer in the City of Fort Thomas.

1. Be safe. Know the limits of your archery skills. If your skills are limited, do not hunt in the city or limit the discharge of the arrow to a distance from which you are proficient. If you see or hear others in the vicinity, then discontinue your hunt.
2. Be ethical. Don't trespass onto someone else's property to retrieve a deer without that property owner's permission.
3. Be discrete. Cover the deer with a tarp when it is in a location visible to others and when transporting it to be processed.
4. Be courteous. If you are hunting at a time when others are generally sleeping, then conduct all aspects of your hunt as quietly as possible.
5. Carry written permission from the property owner while you are hunting.
6. If you are not the property owner of the land on which you will be hunting, then consider purchasing your own liability insurance.
7. Notify the police department in advance of the time and location of where you intend to hunt.
8. Attend an archery class to demonstrate that you care about improving your archery skills. There are several private organizations in the region that teach classes.

9. If you are not the owner of the property on which you have been given permission to hunt, offer to share the venison you harvest with the owner.
10. Consider donating all or a portion of the venison harvested to a local chapter of “Hunters for the Hungry.”
11. Notify the Fort Thomas Police Department at 859-441-6562 after you have removed a deer in order for the city to keep track of the number of deer and to determine the success of the program.

SECTION FOUR

Following is a list of telephone numbers and contact information which may be beneficial to anyone hunting deer in the City of Fort Thomas.

- Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry, John Phillips, Executive Director: 1-859-824-1372
- Local Meat Processor participating in Hunters for the Hungry:
 - Stacey’s Custom Processing: 859-635-3354
 - Glier’s Specialty Haus: 859-291-1800
- For carcass disposal contact Griffin Industries: 859-472-7361. Their plant is located in Pendelton County.
- Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources: www.fw.ky.gov or call 800-858-1549
- Fort Thomas Police (non-emergency): 859-441-6562
- Fort Thomas Code of Ordinances: www.amlegal.com/ft_thomas_ky