

Mounted Patrol Unit Annual Report

2019



Madison Police Department

Mounted Patrol Academy

Spring 2019

The unit conducted its' second in-house Mounted Patrol Academy to fill vacancies in 2019. Three part-time officers were selected to attend the 6-week long riding academy that consisted of classroom, groundwork, equitation, mounted tactics, crowd management and field training. When a vacancy exist, any non-probationary officer can apply. No prior riding experience is necessary. The unit currently consists of one part-time riding Sergeant, 2 full-time officers and 5 part-time officers.

New Riders



Officer Tom Coyne

I have worked for the Madison Police Department since 2013 and currently work as a Neighborhood Resource Officer in the South District. Being a part of the Mounted Patrol Unit provides an excellent opportunity to interact with members of the community. It is awesome to see people look at the horses with the same respect and admiration that I feel towards them. I have horses at home and have always been impressed with their unique personalities and the working relationships that develop when you have gained their trust. The opportunity to do police work with an equine partner is truly incredible. I am thrilled to be part of a unit that provides such great service to the community in such an approachable format, giddy up!

Officer Katie Bland

I have been with the Madison Police Department since 2015 and joined the Mounted Patrol team in 2019. My affection for horses, especially draft horses, started when my grandfather shared his love of them during summer vacations. He would be thrilled to see me riding our 'big guys'. Combining a childhood hobby with a career I am passionate about is a dream come true. Our horses are extraordinary ambassadors for MPD and to work with well-trained horses in keeping citizens and officers safe during large events is a great privilege.





Officer Ruben Gonzalez

I have been with the Madison Police Department since 2016. I have worked patrol for the Central and South Districts and will be serving as the Fisher/Baird Neighborhood officer. My grandfather introduced me to horses at a young age that planted a passion and love for horses in me. I am excited and honored to continue to serve the community of Madison and grow as a member of the Mounted Unit.



Officers Tom Coyne (L) and Ruben Gonzalez on patrol at Elver Park.



Officers Katie Bland (forefront) and Ken Mulry on neighborhood patrol on Madison's North Side.

New Riders

Mutual Aid Requests



UW Football Games

The University of Wisconsin Police Department again requested mutual aid from the Mounted Patrol Team to help cover all Badger Football games at Camp Randall. A team of 2 horses and riders worked outside the stadium providing high visibility patrol while assisting with crowd management and VIP escorts as needed.

State Fair

For the third year in a row, MPD's Mounted Unit assisted in providing high visibility patrols in the Midway area of the State Fair on the last day of the event. Historically, the last day of the Fair has proven to be the most challenging and many resources are utilized in an effort to reduce criminal activity and large-scale disturbances.



Horse Sponsorship

In 2019, the horse sponsorship program continued its success. All six horses were sponsored at the annual rate of \$5000/ea. This funding is used to ensure the horses get the proper care, training and equipment they need to be successful in their roles. Each year, sponsors receive a visit by their horse to a place of their choosing, along with trading cards featuring their horse and their business logo, slogan or photo of loved ones. Thousands of cards are given out during the 8-month riding season!

2019 Sponsors

“Doctor B”, aka “Doc” sponsored by Indigo Trails & Stacey Bean

“Bubba Munz” sponsored by the Munz Corporation

“Torres”, aka “Mr. T” sponsored by Laura Callahan of First Weber Realty

“Cooper” sponsored by Lynne and Rich Schifreen of Madison, WI

“Chevy” sponsored by Laura Harrington of Madison, WI

“Leo” sponsored by Chad Becker of Becker 505



Horse Retirement—Leo



Leo, an 11-year old Percheron/Clydesdale gelding served the Madison Police Department for three years. Leo was donated to the program by a family out of Postville, WI. As a nine year old, Leo had never been ridden or been off the farm! His first day of work was at the Mifflin Street Block Party in 2017. He passed with flying colors! In the years that followed, he proved to have a winning personality suited especially well to appearances as he liked all the attention.

As his career progressed, the team began seeing slight changes in Leo's behavior characterized by him shying away from moving objects, especially those coming at him. A routine veterinary exam of his eyes showed a significant cataract present in his right eye. The cataract had the effect similar to that of looking through fractured glass or a kaleidoscope. To Leo, one fast vehicle or object seemed like many, and over time, he started to shy aggressively away from these things. Given the situation, it was decided that for his safety and that of the community, he would be retired from the program. While it was hard losing Leo, he has since found his forever home with Chicago Police Homicide Detective Juan Ignacio Gonzalez. Detective Gonzalez spent three years with the Chicago Police Department's Mounted Team prior to being promoted to detective. He is also the brother of MPD Mounted Officer Ruben Gonzalez. Both are committed to Leo's transition to his new role.

As a result of Leo's unexpected retirement, the team will be actively looking for a suitable horse to join the unit.



Leo on patrol at Lake Farm Park



Leo and Officer Molly Thomson

Training



Dane County Special Events Team

Crowd Management Techniques incorporating Mounted Patrol

The Dane County Sheriff's Department requested joint training with their Special Events Team and Madison Mounted. The training was conducted at the Dane County Law Enforcement Training Center where the focus was on officer safety around the horses. Once the officers became more comfortable around the horses, the mounted unit provided demonstrations showing how mounted officers can assist in dispersing crowds when supported by foot officers. We also worked sensory training involving smoke and disruptive crowds. The joint training was well received by those in attendance.



Horsemanship and Equitation (16 hrs)

Full Unit Training with Ryan Rose

Ryan Rose, a professional trainer, conducted a two-day Natural Horsemanship clinic for the unit. Retired police horses were utilized so each rider could actively participate in the clinic (as we have 6 horses and 8 riders). Mr. Rose conducted exercises to build confidence in the horses while providing strategies for the riders to use when addressing known issues specific to each horse on the team.



Technical Large Animal Rescue (40 hrs)*

Officers S. Mulry and K. Wahl

Officers attended a Large Animal Rescue course at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine. The training was provided free of charge by Wisconsin Large Animal Emergency Response (WLAER), Irongate Equine Clinic and UW Veterinary staff. Instruction focused on proper rescue techniques when working with large animals (whether livestock or exotic) in a variety of hazardous situations.

Topics included:

Animal behavior, natural and man-made disasters, single/multiple animal rescue, the role of veterinarians, equipment familiarization, safety considerations, animal euthanasia, moving live animals, setting up containment, rescue scenarios demonstrating extrication and/or lifting techniques

This training has equipped officers within the unit with the knowledge necessary to set up and assist in command post operations while also taking the lead in downed animal rescues.

*Training goal- 2 members will attend on an annual basis until all members have been through the course.



Training

Friends of the Madison Mounted Horse Patrol



In 2019 there were five voting board members comprised of citizen volunteers. These volunteers worked closely with sponsors and members of the community to provide educational and fundraising opportunities across the City of Madison. Monies raised were used to purchase needed equipment and training for both horses and riders. The success of the mounted program is largely due to the tireless efforts of these volunteers!

Fundraising Efforts

Horse Sponsor Program

All six city-owned mounts continued to be sponsored at \$5,000 annually.

Midwest Horse Fair

This is a high-visibility event for both the nonprofit board and the mounted team. Although the horses were not able to be at the event due to a farm quarantine, a 50/50 raffle and merchandise sales contributed to annual fundraising efforts.

Giving Tuesday

In December, a push was made through Facebook to help raise money for the purchase and training of a new horse to take Leo's spot on the unit. The fundraising goal of \$7,500 was achieved through the generous donations made by numerous community donors!

2019 Calendar and Merchandise

Sales were made online.

2019

HELP SUPPORT THE HORSES
BUY A CALENDAR TODAY
\$18.00

JUNE

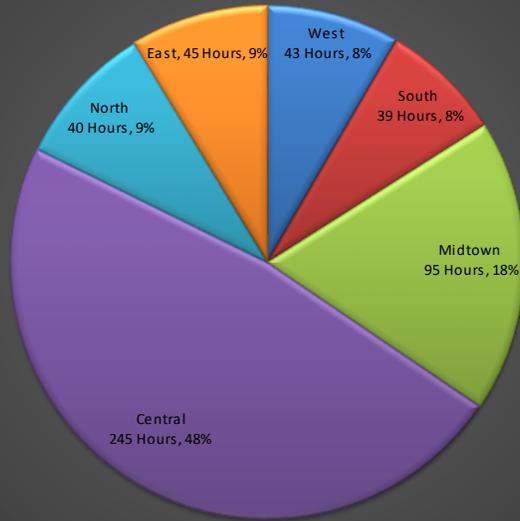
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MADISON MOUNTED HORSE PATROL

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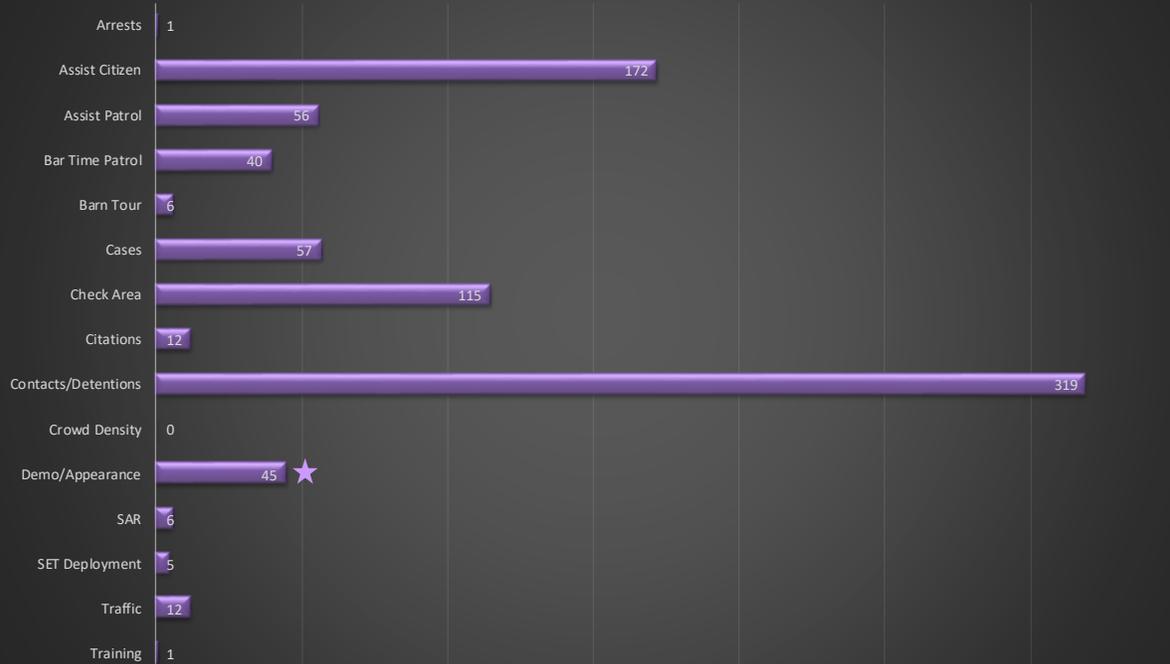
2019 Statistics

Time Spent in Districts Year End 2019



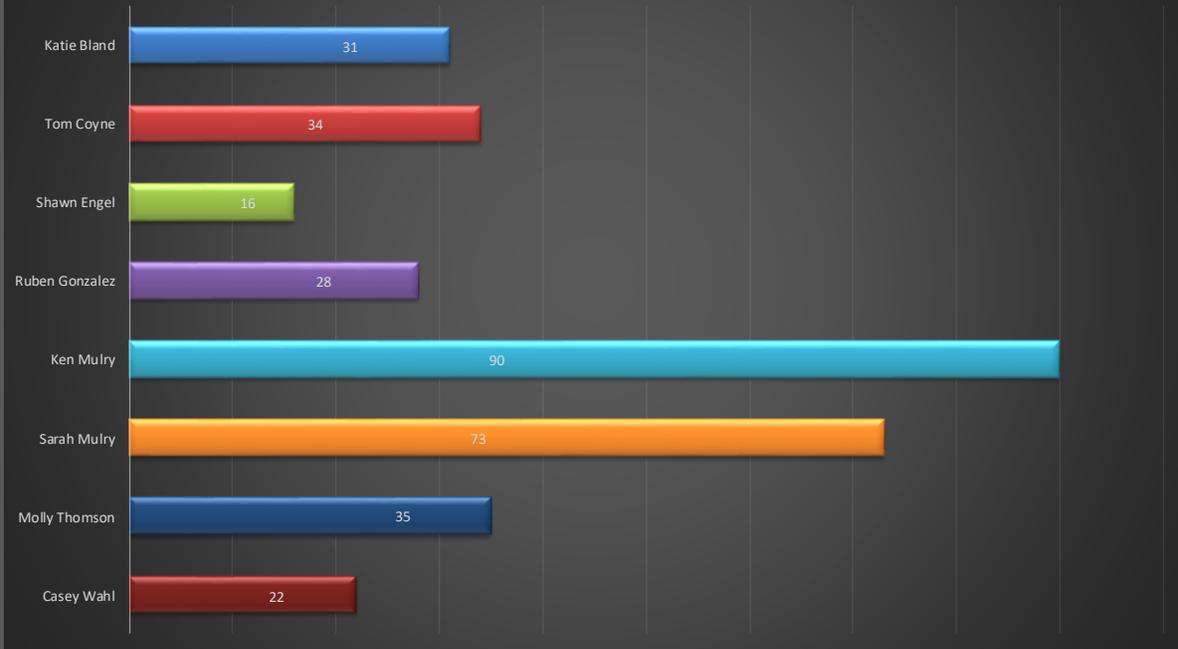
West South Midtown Central North East

Year End 2019 - Statistics



★ 33 appearances denied in 2019

Rider Deployments Year End 2019



Horse Deployments Year End 2019

