

Welcome to the mounted patrol!

BY GARY
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Mack, a six-year-old quarterhorse owned by Courtney Sedbrook of Brodhead, recently joined the Madison Mounted Patrol and by most accounts is enjoying his new job.

Courtney sold her horse to the mounted patrol, where he joined Beau, Artex and Xander, bolstering a horse force that was disbanded as a unit 10 years ago.

"I'm very honored to have my horse as a police officer," said Courtney, who has owned Macky (now known as Mack on the force) for the past four years.

The horses, chosen for demeanor, age and size are not the type to be intimidated. They are even taught to assist in arrests by pinning assailants up against a wall or vehicle.

Officer Jerry Goehring, assigned to Mack after the recent acquisition, explains that having horses is invaluable for helping with crowd control and getting to know the community.

He has ridden State Street in Madison, along with Miffon Street and Halloween.

"Students love the horses," he said. "They definitely have a calming effect on people."

A nonprofit group called "Madison Mounted" helps pay for the animals.

Courtney decided with her commitments to school and a job, she couldn't properly take care of Macky anymore, so she "traded her horse for a bike, sort of."

Courtney has owned horses much of her life. This will be the first time in 12 years she has been without one.

Macky was born and raised in Prairie du Chien at CR Quarterhorses. He is well travelled, having been to the Shawnee National Forest near the Illinois-Kentucky border and on many camping trips.

"They set up a mini-field test for him when they came and looked at him, and he passed with flying colors," she said. "He's a calm, laid-back horse."

It is said that one horse equals 15 police officers, in terms of presence on a scene. Mack stands to be a valued addition to Madison's Mounted Patrol. As the only one of the four horses actually recruited and purchased, he is a valued edition. The other horses were donated.

"We're excited and hope he does well," Courtney added.



Courtney Sedbrook and Macky



Mack with the
Madison Mounted Patrol