



Lexington-Fayette Urban County
Division of Police
MEMORANDUM
Lexington, Kentucky

DATE OF ISSUE
July 2, 2014

EFFECTIVE DATE

NUMBER

TO:

**Lieutenant Samuel Murdock
BOSO / Operational Support**

SUBJECT:

Retirement of Police Horse Panzer

FROM:

**Sergeant Joseph E. Eckhardt
Lexington Police / Mounted Unit**

This memorandum is in reference to the requested retirement of Police Horse Panzer. This request is based on ailments the horse has suffered to both of his stifles causing an unsteady gate while the rider is in the saddle (human equivalent of bad knees). Over the 17 years of police service Panzer has developed a chronic condition that was caused by years of riding on the pavement with a rider. This has affected his confirmation making it unsafe for him to continue in police service. This opinion is based on two veterinarians reviewing his condition. Both Dr. Cory Williams and Dr. Sarah Padilla reviewed the horse with X-rays and evaluations. In speaking with both of them there was nothing we could do to cure the condition and they both stated Panzer would show signs that he would not be able to continue service.

In riding Panzer at events since this diagnosis I have noticed he has steadily declined and is now at the point where retirement is necessary. He has also been locking up in the stall because of lack of movement and is in need of a 24 hour turnout to help with his ailing stifles. In order to prevent Panzer lying down and not being able to get up another option is necessary to help with his health issues.

Sandra Radcliffe Skarky has offered to provide Panzer with a retirement home at 305 S. Yarnallton Pike. Her property is a 50 acre horse farm with two large barns. He will be stabled in a stall that allows him to go in and out of it freely and access to several acres of grazing. In this location he will not be ridden and it is very well suited for his current health conditions.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

Sergeant Joseph E. Eckhardt 37498