

# Officer's family donates Moose, St. Paul's newest member of the mounted patrol

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Craig and Barb Rutschow, at left, donated their horse, Moose, to the St. Paul police department. They are the parents of St. Paul officer Cohlman Rutschow, second from the right. Officer Jennifer Mink will be paired with Moose. Cohlman's brother, Clayton Rutschow, is on the far right. There was a retirement ceremony on Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018, for Moose's predecessor. (Courtesy of St. Paul police)

The parents of a St. Paul police officer donated the newest horse to the department's mounted patrol.

Barb and Craig Rutschow, of Red Wing, Minn., owned Moose for about a year and a half.

"But we're older, and we're just not the cowboy and cowgirl we used to be," Barb Rutschow said Thursday.

They previously owned a horse that was once part of the Goodhue County sheriff's office mounted patrol and they could see Moose had potential to be a good police horse.

On Thursday, St. Paul police horse Jett — who joined the department when he was 8 years old — retired at 20, and Moose took his place. In a ceremony, a member of the mounted patrol removed Jett's saddle and placed it on Moose to signify "the passing of the torch," said Sgt. Mike Ernster, a St. Paul police spokesman.

There are four other horses in St. Paul's mounted unit, which patrols citywide and also works at events. The police department plans to add three horses to the unit this spring, Ernster said.

The Rutschows said they're proud Moose will be helping in the city where their son, Cohlman Rutschow, is an officer.

When they offered up the 10-year-old Moose, mounted patrol officers gave him a test run and he "won everyone's heart and fit the criteria," Barb Rutschow said.

Craig and Barb Rutschow now dream of writing a children's book about Moose — "he was part Clydesdale, part Quarter Horse, but nobody knew he was all cop," Craig Rutschow said.