



**SHERIFF ED GONZALEZ**

1200 Baker Street, Houston, Texas 77002 ★ (346) 286-1600 ★ [www.sheriff.hctx.net](http://www.sheriff.hctx.net)

April 10, 2023

To: E. Gonzalez, Sheriff  
Executive Command

4/14/2023

M. Lee, Chief Deputy  
Executive Command

4/14/2023

T. Diaz, Assistant Chief  
Law Enforcement Command

4/13/2023

S. Cotter, Major  
Patrol Support Services Bureau

4/13/2023

From: M. Koteras, Captain  
Special Operations Division

4/13/2023

Re: Retain estray for County Purposes

I am requesting we retain for Harris County Sheriff's Office purposes a miniature stud horse (Case #2023-08596) impounded on March 20, 2023 (Case #2023-08596; see-attached letter).

Texas Agriculture Code authorizes the Sheriff to retain impounded estray livestock for County purposes (see statute below).

**AGRICULTURE CODE, TITLE 6. PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, AND SALE OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS SUBTITLE B. LIVESTOCK CHAPTER 142.**

**ESTRAYS, Sec. 142.013. DISPOSITION OR SALE OF IMPOUNDED ESTRAYS.**

*(a) If the ownership of an estray is not determined before the third day after the date of the final advertisement under this chapter or if the estray is not redeemed before the 18th day after the date of impoundment, the county has title to the estray and the sheriff shall, except as provided by Subsection (e), cause the estray to be sold at a sheriff's sale or public auction licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture. Title to the estray is considered vested in the sheriff or the sheriff's designee for purposes of passing good title, free and clear of all claims, to the purchaser at the sale or for the purposes of Subsection (e).*

*(e) If a sheriff determines that the sale of an estray under this section is unlikely to generate sufficient proceeds to cover the expense of the sale, the sheriff may, instead of selling the estray:*

*(1) donate the estray to a nonprofit organization; or*

*(2) retain the estray and use it for county purposes.*



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To: M. Koteras, Captain *Mike Koteras* 4/11/2023  
Special Operations Division  
D. Criss, Lieutenant *Danell Criss* 4/11/2023  
Special Operations Division

From: W. Conner, Sergeant *Warren Conner* 4/11/2023  
Livestock

Re: Miniature Stud Horse (Case#2023-08596)

On Monday March 20, 2023, I, Sergeant Warren Conner, impounded a miniature stud horse (Case #2023-08596) which I believe may be a good opportunity to use in public appearances for the Department. Per the Texas Agriculture Code, this livestock animal must be held on to for 18 days (April 7<sup>th</sup>). If he is unclaimed, the impounding agency may decide to adopt and utilize this animal for the department's use as stated in the Agriculture Code.

He appears to have the colors of a black and white blue roan paint. He has one blue eye and one brown eye. He appears to be a younger horse in age and would be in service for 15-20 years. He is very heathy in appearance. I would recommend a full health assessment with a licensed veterinarian. If he is healthy and shows potential after more interaction, I would recommend castration. He does not show any signs of aggression towards humans and is skittish at first, but then warms up. I believe with more handling and interaction he will be more trusting. I am able to place a lead rope on him and walk him around without issues.

I have enclosed a few photos as seen below:



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