



Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Officer Astra

Badge # 495

January 10, 2013 – April 30, 2025



The Madison Police Department is saddened to announce the loss of Officer K9 Astra. In November 2024 she was diagnosed with cancer and she lost a valiant battle on April 30, 2025. She was a joy to have as a family member and fellow officer. She was the total package when it came to work ethic, abilities and drive to hunt narcotics. We offer our sincerest condolences to Astra's handler, Major Robbie Sanders and family.

During her nine-year career, she played a significant role in the seizure of well over 5 million dollars in illegal narcotics and illegal proceeds as an interdiction narcotics K9. During 2018, she

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was credited with the largest reported heroin seizure of 33 pounds and also the largest reported liquid methamphetamine seizure of 150 pounds.

Astra's formal training was with USK9. Astra held certifications with the United Police Canine Association. She was recognized as the certification standard in narcotics for Region 26. She also held certifications through the National Narcotics Detector Dog Association. Astra's most recent seizure was in October 2024 at the Jackson International Airport where she located over 20 pounds of illegal narcotics being smuggled inside two pieces of luggage.

She was a pleasure to observe in training, work and play. "Job Well Done Officer Astra, Badge # 495" - Chief Gene Waldrop

Special Thank You:

Mannsdale Animal Clinic

Urgivet

Mississippi State College of Veterinary Medicine

MedVet of Mandeville, Louisiana

