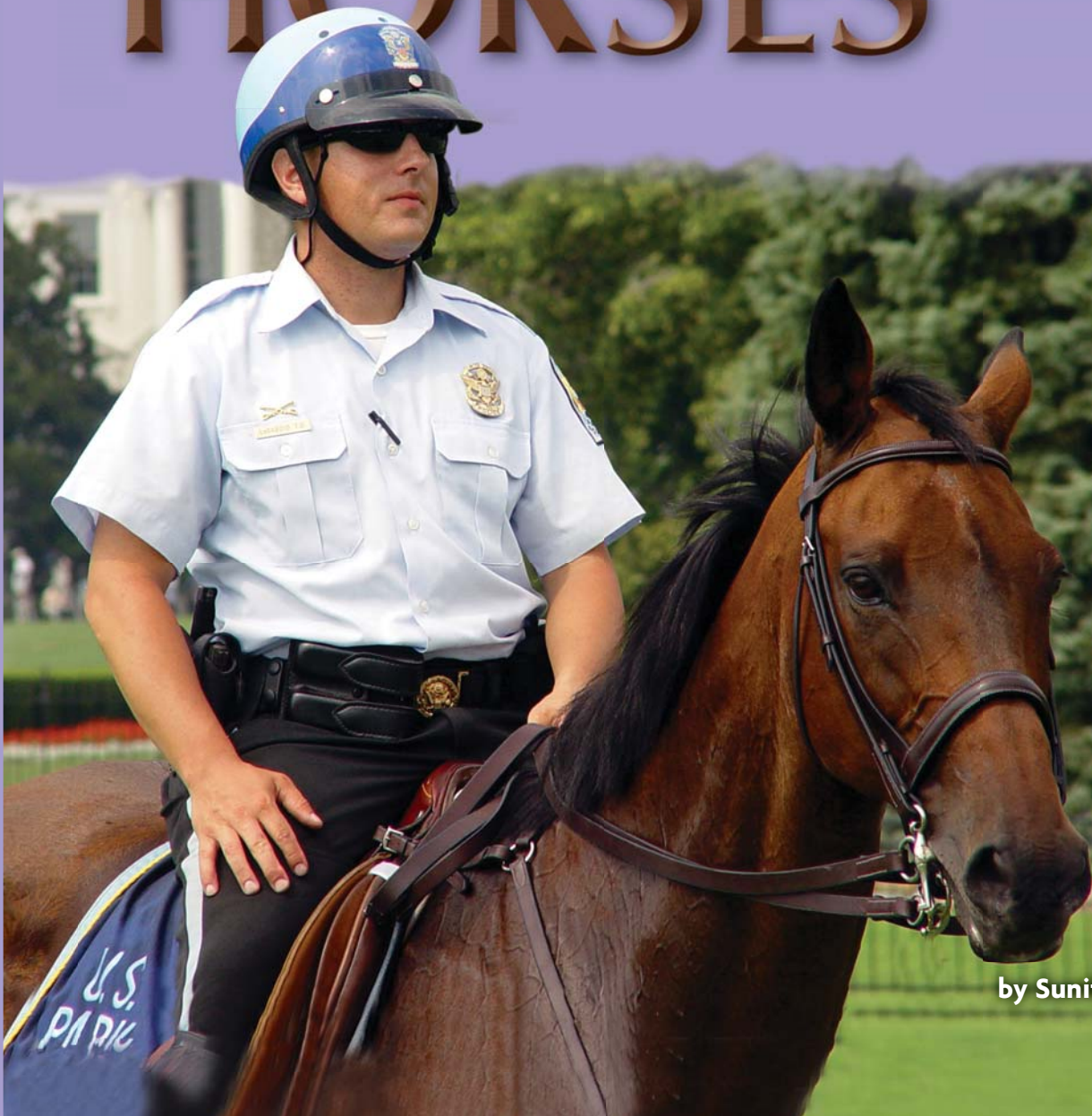




Police HORSES



by Sunita Apte

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by Sunita Apte

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Riders Elite Academy, Inc.

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

Credits

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Publisher: Kenn Goin

Project Editor: Lisa Wiseman

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Photo Researcher: Amy Dunleavy

Design: Stacey May

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Apte, Sunita.

Police horses / by Sunita Apte.

p. cm. — (Horse power)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-59716-401-6 (library binding)

ISBN-10: 1-59716-401-1 (library binding)

1. Police horses—Juvenile literature. 2. Mounted police—Juvenile literature. I. Title. II. Series: Horse power (Series)

HV7957.A68 2007

636.1—dc22

2006030439

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For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 101 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6R, New York, New York 10003. Printed in the United States of America.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



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Caught

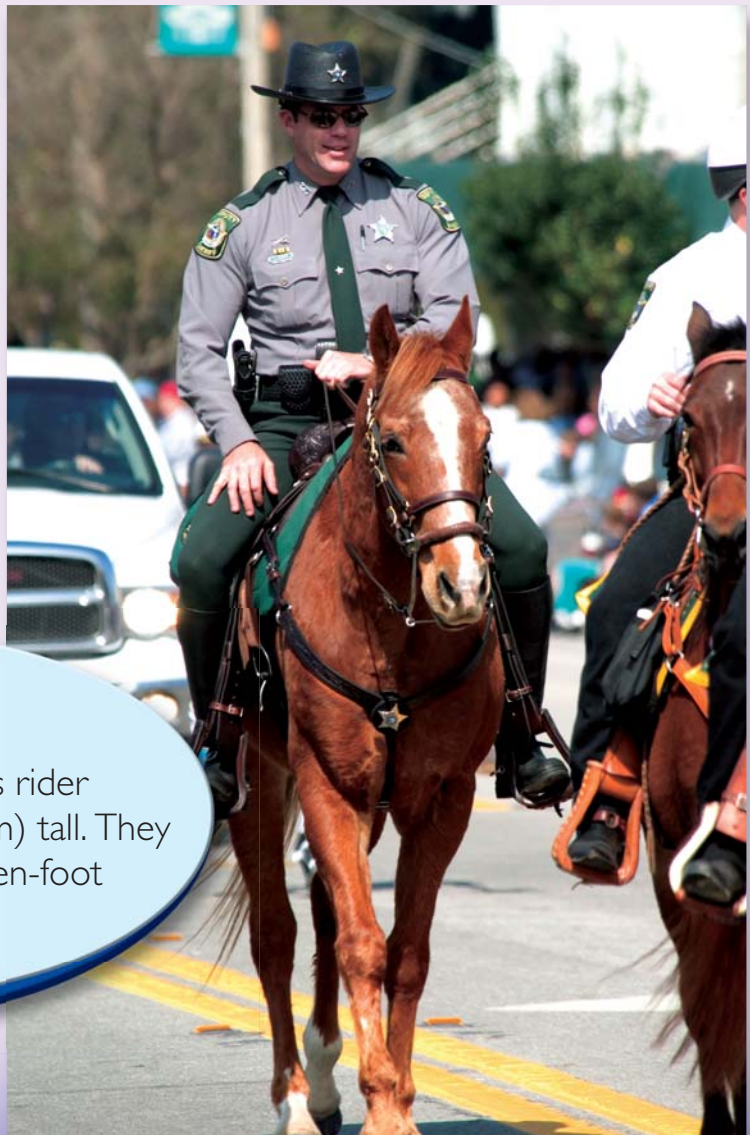
The robber grabbed the money from the frightened bank teller. The **heist** was going just as planned. Now all he had to do was make a quick getaway.

When he stepped out into the bright Florida sunlight, however, something large blocked his path. What was it? The robber gasped as he looked up. Officer Dave McGrath and his horse, Dirty Harry, stood in his way.

Like Officer McGrath, police officers all over the country patrol cities on horseback. This officer and his partner are keeping the streets of Dade City, Florida, safe.



A police horse and his rider can stand over ten feet (3 m) tall. They are sometimes called ten-foot (3-m) cops.



Terrified, the robber ran back into the bank. He dropped his gun and the money. Then he put up his hands to **surrender**. He knew he couldn't escape from a policeman on a horse!

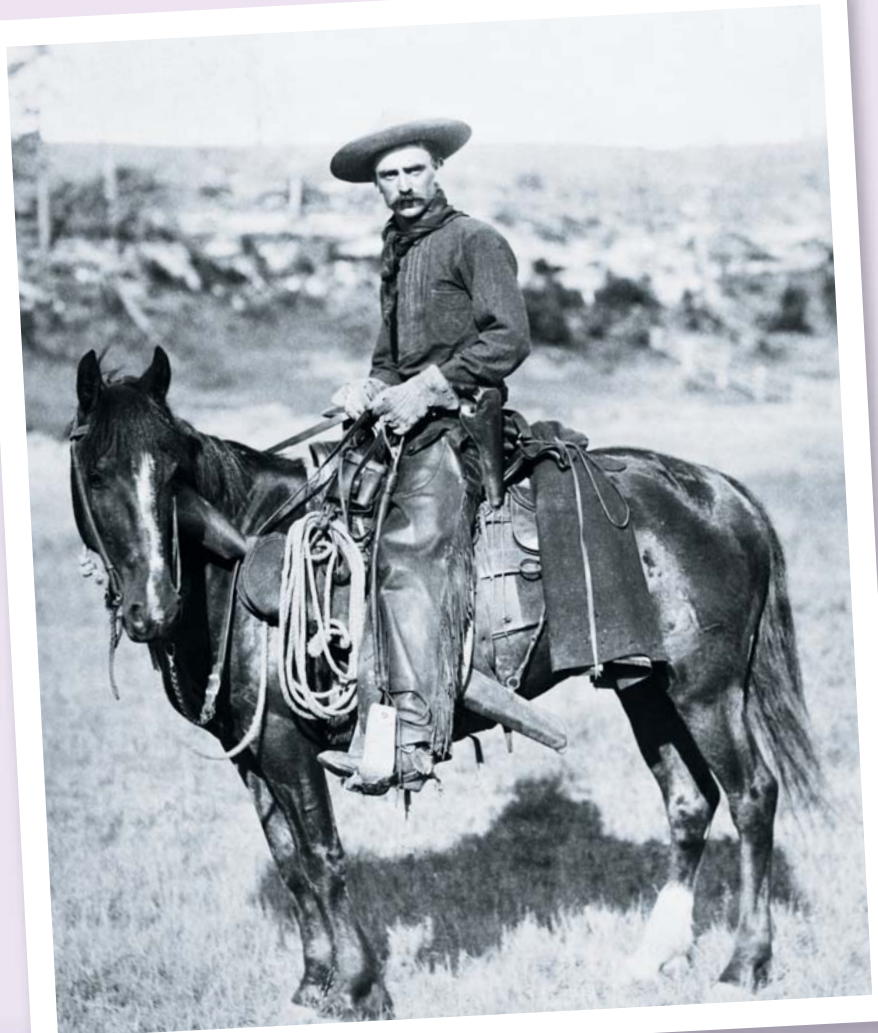


Some horses wear badges so that people know they are part of a police force.

A Long History

Horses have been used in police work for hundreds of years. Long before there were police cars, officers often traveled their **beat** on horseback. In the mid-1800s, sheriffs, marshals, and deputies **patrolled** America's Old West on these animals. They often had to cover great distances between towns and farms. They could do this quickly and easily on a horse.

A deputy in
Arizona in 1886



Soon towns grew into large cities with lots of people. These areas needed more than one officer on horseback to stop crime and to keep the peace. So **mounted police units** were formed. These groups were modeled on the **cavalry**, a successful army horse unit.



A mounted cavalry



Police horses are sometimes called four-legged cops.

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About the Author

Sunita Apte lives in Brooklyn, New York, with fellow writer Michael Sandler and their two children, Laszlo and Asha. She used to ride horses as a child and has always loved them.

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Police HORSES

The bank robbery was going as planned. Now all the thief had to do was make a quick getaway. As he ran outside, however, something large blocked his path. The robber gasped as he looked up. Officer Dave McGrath and his police horse, Dirty Harry, stood in the way. Terrified, the robber surrendered. He knew he couldn't escape from a policeman on a horse!

Dirty Harry is just one of thousands of hard-working four-legged cops. Look inside to learn more about police horses and how these heroic animals help keep the streets safe.



Military Horses • Police Horses • Race Horses
Show Horses • Therapy Horses
Working Horses

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

www.bearportpublishing.com

ISBN-10: 1-59716-401-1

ISBN-13: 978-1-59716-401-6



9 781597 164016