

**CITY OF GALVESTON
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

PROCEDURES FOR MOUNTED OFFICERS

PURPOSE: Enforcement of federal, state, and local laws, conducting patrol duties in accordance with policy and procedures of the department and mounted patrol and attention to duties.

A. TASKS:

1. Use of mounted officers will be limited to ceremonial, honorary, promotional and special events. Officers will carry out assignments in accordance with directives from superior officers and supervisory personnel.
2. Officers will patrol on a two-officer team unless specifically ordered to do otherwise, or circumstances require an officer to ride solo. Officers will not be required to ride solo if it compromises the officer's or mount's safety.
3. Mounts may be walked on the street, beach, or seawall, but officers will refrain from riding on the sidewalk, except in an emergency. An emergency includes, but is not limited to, as making or assisting in an arrest, performing crowd control or assisting other law enforcement personnel in the performance of their duties.
4. Mounts will be ridden at a walk unless a faster gate is necessary, such as when responding to an emergency or training the mount to trot on different road surfaces. A gate faster rate than a walk is only permitted when the road surface, beach conditions and traffic conditions permit.
5. Officers will refrain from standing their mount in a crosswalk. In the event the officer's mount defecates on a sidewalk, seawall, crosswalk, or other high pedestrian traffic area, the officer will dismount and ensure the area is sufficiently clear of excrement.
6. The decision to ride (or not to ride) in inclement weather will be made by a supervisor. The decision will be based on:
 - a. Safety and health of the officers and mounts.
 - b. Necessity of staffing events.
 - c. Severity of weather. In the case of rain, mounted officers will have their rain gear readily available.
 - d. In each circumstance, the supervisor will evaluate the relevant factors before making a decision.

7. Mounted officers will present a neat, professional appearance and demeanor at all times. Officer uniforms and mount tack will be clean, repaired and in operable condition at all times.
8. Officers will not tie their mounts to a parking meter, traffic sign, pole, car, etc., unless the scene is secure enough to properly restrain the horse.
 - a. Mounts will be in a safe secure place.
 - b. Mounts may not be left close to private vehicles.
 - c. Mounts must be away from pedestrian traffic as well as auto traffic.
9. In case of emergency mobilization of police department officers, Mounted Patrol officers will report immediately to the regular Patrol headquarters unless directed to do otherwise.
10. Mounted Patrol Officers are not permitted to use mounts, tack, horse trailers or mount patrol related city property for outside security employment.

B. PROPER DISPOSITION OF PRISONERS BY MOUNTED OFFICERS:

1. Handcuff and search prisoner thoroughly.
2. Call for a patrol unit to transport prisoner. In the event a transport vehicle is not immediately available, mounted patrol officer will wait in place with the prisoner unless otherwise directed by a supervisor.
3. Mounted patrol officers will assist in completing all paperwork. Officers will also complete any reports that are needed and file charges, if necessary.