

Dear WLECHA Awards Committee,

I would like to nominate Sergeant Andy Kohlmann and K9 Ace for the 2026 Meritorious Track Award based on the following incident:

On Tuesday, June 29th, 2026, Sergeant Kohlmann and K9 Ace were requested to assist with locating an identified wanted subject who had fled on foot following an attempted bike stop. The suspect was identified as Toby Mullins, who was wanted in connection with multiple burglaries throughout the state, including Price, Iron, Ashland, Winnebago, and Taylor Counties. Mullins had previously escaped capture by fleeing on foot from both Ashland County and Winnebago County Deputies. A Wisconsin Crime Alert had been issued in an attempt to locate and apprehend Mullins, who had felony arrest warrants for burglary as well as additional pending charges.

Sergeant Kohlmann and K9 Ace arrived on scene approximately 20 minutes after Mullins had fled on foot. A drone was deployed in an attempt to locate the suspect but was unsuccessful. Approximately 45 minutes after the suspect fled, a K9 track was initiated while the drone continued to provide overwatch.

Mullins had fled into a nearby cattail marsh. K9 Ace was able to acquire the track from the suspect's last known location and began tracking west into extremely challenging terrain consisting of 7–8-foot-tall cattails, waist-deep water, and unstable marsh conditions. During the track, K9 Ace located multiple articles of clothing discarded by the suspect, including his shoes.

The track continued approximately 200 yards into the marsh and included multiple changes in direction. K9 Ace had to overcome numerous surface changes, transitioning from woodchips, to tall grass, to dense cattails, and eventually swimming between sections of floating bog. Near the end of the track, Mullins had attempted to conceal himself by crawling on his hands and knees through chest-high, windblown cattails, leaving no visible disturbance from above.

K9 Ace continued to work through the difficult conditions and pulled Sergeant Kohlmann into a small clearing within the cattails, approximately eight feet wide. Ace showed a strong interest near a floating section of bog. Trusting his K9's indication, Sergeant Kohlmann looked closely in the opening expecting to find another article left by Mullins. Approximately 15 seconds after arriving at the clearing, Sergeant Kohlmann observed a single eyeball looking back at him from the muck approximately seven feet away, approximately one foot of where K9 Ace had initially tracked to while trying to pinpoint source of the odor.

Sergeant Kohlmann immediately ordered Mullins to show his hands while holding him at gunpoint. K9 Ace was held back now that Mullins became compliant, and assisting deputies took Mullins into custody.

At no point was the drone able to detect a heat signature from Mullins due to his concealment within the marsh. Without the successful track by K9 Ace, I am confident law enforcement would not have located the suspect.

For these reasons, I respectfully nominate Sergeant Kohlmann and K9 Ace for the 2026 Meritorious Track Award.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination.

*Lt. Ryan Zitlow*

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Attached are three pictures:

1. A picture showing the location where the suspect was concealed and K9 Ace tracking directly to him.
2. A screenshot showing a clearer view of the area where the suspect was hiding, remaining undetected.
3. A screenshot showing Mullins after becoming compliant, with his hand raised in the air.



