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Link to original story: <https://uwm.edu/news/uwm-police-welcome-first-k-9-officer-ezmae-the-comfort-dog/>

**UWM Police welcome first K-9 officer – Ezmae the comfort dog**

Written by Angelica Duria

Ezmae, a 1-year-old golden retriever, has joined the UWM Police force as its first K-9 officer. She was sworn in at a ceremony with her handler, Officer Mindy Wucherer, at the UWM Student Union’s Fireside Lounge in August.

Ezmae is a certified facility-trained dog, a type of service dog specializing in an educational environment. Her training allows her to assist students, staff and anyone else suffering from depression, being a crime victim or dealing with any type of stressful event.

Wucherer, who has been with the UWM Police Department for nearly seven years, proposed a facility/comfort K-9 program for UWM police to help the department’s mission of serving the needs of an engaged university community.

“During the past few years, I noticed police agencies started specifically incorporating comfort dogs in their departments,” Wucherer said. “I began researching the benefits of these types of K-9s and found nothing but positive feedback from departments that implemented them. I am grateful UWMPD and the university agreed that a facility/comfort K-9 would be a great addition to our campus.”

[Partners with Paws](https://partnerswithpawsservicedogs.org/) donated Ezmae to UWMPD and is also donating the training needed for her certification.