

# MUGIE's TRACKER DOGS UNIT

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## TRACKER DOGS UNIT INFORMATION



One of Mugie's aces is the Tracker Dog Unit. The unit consists of two bloodhounds and their four handlers. The unit supports the protection of wildlife in Mugie and follows up on stock thefts, cases of missing people, and other petty incidents in the neighboring communities.

The K-9 Unit is based at Bravo 5, in the heart of Mugie. When not out in the field following up on incidents, the dogs undergo daily training and patrols with Sundays being their rest and grooming day.

The K-9 Unit has had a huge impact on Mugie, with wildlife related crimes in the Conservancy dropping to practically zero. In addition to following up on incidents, the simple presence of the K-9 Unit works as a strong deterrent for all those with ill intentions.

In regards to activities in the communities, the impact of the Unit is significant. Years of operations and recovery of thousands of stolen stock and the arrest of several criminals, has created a general trust towards Mugie's Security team, boosting community collaboration and reducing petty incidents.





## GET INVOLVED



If you would like to know more about the K-9 Unit and meet the team, you should plan a visit to Bravo 5 where you can experience first-hand the work of our four legged team members where you can set a scent for them to track you through ancient olive tree grooves.

The lodge manager or your guide can check on the availability of the K-9 team so that you are able to go and learn more on this amazing team while experiencing first hand what it is like to track and being tracked.

Please note that in case the team is called upon, your visit might be canceled last minute.





Want to know more?  
[info@Mugie.org](mailto:info@Mugie.org)



## HANDLERS PROFILE



### **Stephen Juma**

*Why did you join the K9 team?*

I grew up in an area where the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy rangers were doing exercises with their K9s and that made me develop a great interest in handling K9s.

*Favorite part of the job?*

I like a situation where we have been called for an operation, the tracks are fresh and the K9 is on track, and I know we will be successful.

*The importance of the team?*

The team has helped in weeding out several offenders around the conservancy.

### **Chomotho Amonia**

*Why did you join the K9 team?*

I started as a fence attendant and then I was transferred to the rhino monitoring team. During the rhino days I often joined the K9 team in operations, when a vacancy in the team came up I asked to join.

*Favorite part of the job?*

When I go for an operation which ends successfully and the whole team withdraws safely.

*The importance of the team?*

The team has helped to cement a positive relationship between the conservancy and the local communities thanks to the several trails that are normally conducted to support them.

### **Julius Lelegwe**

*Why did you join the K9 team?*

I always had an interest in K9 handling and it is the only job that I trained for.

*Favorite part of the job?*

When we are called upon for an operation and it turns out to be a successful one.

*The importance of the team?*

The team has helped in eliminating crime from the conservancy and reducing the same within the communities as offenders now know that Mugie has got a strong K9 unit that will be called upon if anything happens.

### **Josphat Kimat**

*Why did you join the K9 team?*

I started as a fence attendant and then I was moved to the security team. Whilst in security I developed an interest in the K9 Unit and when an opening presented itself I asked for a transfer.

*Favorite part of the job?*

I love being outdoors and I am very appreciative when I receive positive feedback from my peers.

*The importance of the team?*

The team ensures that both people and wildlife in Mugie are safe. Since the team was formed, poaching, trespass and theft incidents have reduced to nearly zero.

## DOGS PROFILE



### Tusker

Date of Birth: 24th March 2019

Sex: Male

Breed: Bloodhound

Coat: Black and tan

Role: Human scent tracking

Nature: Strong willed and curious

History: Tusker joined the Mugie K9 Unit in December 2019 after successfully graduating from his training in Ol Pejeta. He is the son of Butto, an incredible Bloodhound that was part of Mugie's team for 10 years.



### Mlinzi

Date of Birth: 27th February 2021

Sex: Female

Breed: Bloodhound

Coat: Black and tan

Role: Human scent tracking

Nature: Loving and focused

History: Mlinzi joined the Mugie K9 Unit in October 2021 after successfully completing her training in Ol Pejeta. She is the daughter of Ismael, a trusty and loyal Bloodhound that like Butto was part of Mugie's team for 10 years.



## WANT TO SUPPORT THE TEAM?

There are various ways you can support the Tracker Dog Unit.

Food for one dog for a month	USD 60
Food for two dogs for a month	USD 120
Veterinary costs for one month	USD 50
Transport costs for one month	USD 100
Total cost per K-9 with Hanfler for one month	USD 400

Any other support is greatly appreciated and it will go a long way in supporting the Tracker Dog Unit and with it the protection of wildlife and the help to the neighboring communities.