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California Equine Retirement Foundation is First Equine Accreditation in California by Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries

California Equine Retirement Foundation is also first Thoroughbred Retirement Facility Accredited in the United States says GFAS deputy director-equine

June 1, 2011 (Winchester, CA) – The Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), the only globally recognized organization providing standards for identifying legitimate animal sanctuaries, announced that on May 19th, 2011, California Equine Retirement Foundation (CERF) became the first California equine rescue and sanctuary accredited to its standards and, thus, the first Thoroughbred retirement facility recognized by GFAS, in attaining equine accreditation.

The accreditation means CERF meets the comprehensive and rigorous definition of a true equine sanctuary/rescue and is providing humane and responsible care of the animals. GFAS's rigorous and peer-reviewed standards are confirmed by extensive evaluation of every facet of the organization's operations, administration and veterinary care and by a site visit.

"For over 25 years, California Equine Retirement Foundation has provided a safe haven for former racing Thoroughbreds who would otherwise face an uncertain future. The attention to detail at their facility is exemplary and the level of professionalism demonstrates their long term commitment to these horses," said Jeannine Alexander, GFAS Deputy Director-Equine.

At the time CERF was founded, in 1986, few options existed for Thoroughbred race horses whose careers were over. Many of these horses, discarded, end their lives in slaughterhouses, destined to be consumed by humans in other countries or manufactured into pet food. California Equine Retirement Foundation provides an alternative to slaughter for conscientious Thoroughbred owners. By placing a horse with CERF, the owner can be assured of a consistent quality of care.

Grace Belcuore, founder, has reason to be proud of CERF's many accomplishments. "Over the years, we have placed into adoption hundreds of geldings and mares and permanently retired those whose injuries prevented them from going on to other careers. We have retired geldings whose earnings went into the thousands and millions and those that were revered by the fans for their racing prowess and abilities." She continued, "There are those who feel that we should not take care of 'lawn ornaments', as they call them and who feel that those horses that cannot go on into other careers need to be destroyed. We disagree. Our main focus has been and always will be to provide a safe haven for those Thoroughbreds off the track who can be adopted and those who cannot, but can still enjoy a healthy and happy retirement." She concluded, "We are most grateful for the honor bestowed upon us by GFAS,

but we also do know that this would not have come about without the years of support of those organizations and individuals that have been involved with us both financially and personally. And, on behalf of our gallant thoroughbreds we are eternally grateful.”

“We have no doubt that CERF will continue to have a strong presence in California, advocating for humane retirement for race horses, and will also serve as an example of the long term sustainability of an equine retirement facility,” said Alexander.

About Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries

Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to the sole purpose of strengthening and supporting the work of animal sanctuaries in the United States and abroad. The goal of GFAS in working with and assisting sanctuaries is to ensure they are supported, honored, recognized and rewarded for meeting important criteria in providing care to the animals in residence. GFAS was founded in 2007 by animal protection leaders from a number of different organizations in response to virtually unchecked and hidden animal exploitation of animals for human entertainment and financial profit. These founding leaders sit on the GFAS Board of Directors to continue guiding the organization’s work in a collaborative manner. They represent top leadership from Born Free USA, The Humane Society of the United States, World Society for the Protection of Animals, American Anti-Vivisection Society, and International Fund for Animal Welfare.

For additional information on Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, visit www.sanctuaryfederation.org.

About California Equine Retirement Foundation

CERF was founded in 1986 to provide charitable assistance to former race and performance horses upon the conclusion of their careers, through permanent retirement or rehabilitation into other careers. CERF is proud to be helping our Thoroughbreds in need for 25 years.

For additional information on California Equine Retirement Foundation, visit www.cerfhorses.org.