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Zuma's Rescue Ranch Achieves Verification from Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries

Zuma's Rescue Ranch is "a unique place of healing for children and equine" says GFAS director

Today the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), the nation's premier organization providing standards for identifying legitimate animal sanctuaries, announced Zuma's Rescue Ranch, a nonprofit horse rescue organization, became verified as meeting all the requirements of a true rescue/sanctuary by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS). The verification means the Colorado-based rescue meets the comprehensive and rigorous definition of a true equine sanctuary/rescue and is providing humane and responsible care of the equines according to the guidelines of GFAS, which is the only globally recognized organization providing standards for identifying legitimate animal sanctuaries.

"Zuma's Rescue Ranch is a young organization, less than 3 years old, blessed with the use of a full equestrian center on 146 acres," states Patty Finch, executive director of GFAS. "Their mission is to pair at risk children and families with rescue horses to teach both horse and child how to live, love and trust again, using Equine Assisted Experiential Learning."

Zuma's Rescue Ranch was founded by Jodi and Paul Messenich who have dedicated this once lucrative facility to a charitable venture of giving back. Zuma was a beloved horse and the inspiration for the name for the rescue. Their daughter Victoria explains, "Zuma taught me the power of unconditional love. I want the world to feel the love I have in my heart for these animals. I want everyone to know they have someone out there, two legs or four, that will love them without question, if they just give them the chance."

Both horses and children have the opportunity to experience unconditional love, too often for the first time, at Zuma's Rescue Ranch. Executive director Jodi Messenich states "When we know better we do better... or so I always thought. We as a nation know that abuse, cruelty and neglect are wrong yet every

day I fight to protect the voiceless members of our society from evil. I will continue to rescue, protect and most importantly educate for as long as it takes to effect positive change for those in need."

Patty Finch adds, "Zuma's Rescue Ranch is having its Fourth Annual MANE EVENT this Saturday, Sept. 17th. It is a great opportunity to support their wonderful work. Details are at <http://www.zumasmaneevent.com/>."

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, joined by National Anti-Vivisection Society. For more information visit www.sanctuaryfederation.org

About Zuma's Rescue Ranch

Zuma's Rescue Ranch began as a small rescue with just 7 horses. Today in just three years Zuma's Rescue Ranch has grown to serve the needs of more than 40 horses as well as combining the effort of horse rescue with providing equine assisted psychotherapy to troubled youth and their families. Both horse and child benefit from the mutual admiration of one and other, horses need to feel love as much as the children do and the bond is so healing for both. For more information visit www.zumasrescueranch.com/