



Contact: Patty Finch
patty@sanctuaryfederation.org
928.472.1173

Horse Feathers Equine Rescue is First Equine Verification in Oklahoma by Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries

September 26, 2011 (Guthrie, OK) – The Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), the only globally recognized organization providing standards for identifying legitimate animal sanctuaries, awarded Verified status to Horse Feathers Equine Rescue on August 19, 2011.

Verification means that Horse Feathers meets the criteria of a true equine sanctuary/rescue and is providing humane and responsible care of the animals. To be awarded Verified status, an organization must meet GFAS's rigorous and peer-reviewed animal care standards which are confirmed by a site visit and they must also adhere to a demanding set of ethical and operational principles.

“Horse Feathers Equine Rescue is truly making a difference in the lives of Oklahoma's horses,” said Jeannine Alexander, GFAS Deputy Director-Equine. Cheri WhiteOwl expressed her pride in their accomplishment, saying, “Horse Feathers Equine Rescue is very proud to have achieved GFAS Verification. We work extremely hard to provide a safe haven and obtain new homes and careers for as many equines as possible, providing those who are unable to be ridden with a new career as therapists within Healing Feathers, our Equine Assisted Psychotherapy Program, serving our Veterans and others in need by providing an avenue of bonding and healing between horse and client.” She continued, “Other horses in our care serve as participants in the Horse Feathers Kids Program, which provides hands on learning to provide proper care, safe handling, and general horse related education for children, as well as interested parents and other adults.”

“We're always encouraged by organizations that complete the Verification process and their next question is ‘What do we need to do to become Accredited?’. Horse Feathers is already assessing what steps they will need to take to meet those requirements”, said Alexander. Cheri stated, “We look forward to working with GFAS in order to continue to improve our programs and standards of care.” Horse Feathers was awarded a compliance grant by GFAS to help make recommended improvements to meet Accreditation/Verification Standards. Compliance grant funding is made possible through a grant from PetSmart Charities®.

The GFAS Equine Accreditation Program is made possible by generous grants from PetSmart Charities® and The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®.

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 Horse Feathers Equine Rescue

Horse Feathers Equine Rescue has worked hard to provide a safe haven for emaciated, abused, neglected, and slaughter bound horses since its inception in 2006. Many horses have found new homes and careers with our assistance. We have also implemented programs to help educate the public in proper care and nutrition of their equine partners, as well, which serves to alleviate such incidents of abuse and neglect. For additional information on Horse Feathers Equine Rescue, visit www.horsefeathersequinerescue.org.

About PetSmart Charities®

Established in 1994, PetSmart Charities, Inc. is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that creates and supports programs that save the lives of homeless pets, raise awareness of companion animal welfare issues, and promote healthy relationships between people and pets. The largest funder of animal welfare efforts in North America, PetSmart Charities® has provided more than \$134 million in grants and programs benefiting animal welfare organizations and has helped save the lives of more than 4.7 million pets through its in-store adoption program. To learn more about how PetSmart Charities is working toward its vision of a lifelong, loving home for every pet, visit petsmartcharities.org or call 1-800-423-PETS (7387).

About the ASPCA®

Founded in 1866, the ASPCA® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) is the first humane organization established in the Americas and serves as the nation's leading voice for animal welfare. One million supporters strong, the ASPCA's mission is to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States. As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, the ASPCA is a national leader in the areas of anti-cruelty, community outreach and animal health services. The ASPCA, which is headquartered in New York City, offers a wide range of programs, including a mobile clinic outreach initiative, its own humane law enforcement team, and a groundbreaking veterinary forensics team and mobile animal CSI unit. For more information, please visit www.aspca.org. To become a fan of the ASPCA on Facebook, go to <http://www.facebook.com/aspca>. To follow the ASPCA on Twitter, go to <http://www.twitter.com/aspca>.