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# Central Virginia Horse Rescue is Verified by Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries

November 1, 2011 (, VA) – The Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), the only globally recognized organization providing standards for identifying legitimate animal sanctuaries, awarded Verified status to Central Virginia Horse Rescue, October 1, 2011.

Verification means that CVHR 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.

“Central Virginia Horse Rescue is commended for the quality of care they provide for Virginia's unwanted horses,” said Jeannine Alexander, GFAS Deputy Director-Equine. Cindy Smith expressed her pride in their accomplishment, saying, “As a fairly new rescue, CVHR is extremely excited to have achieved Verification through GFAS as they hold their sanctuaries to the highest possible standards. We try to ensure that our horses receive the best care while they are with us. About fifty percent of our horses will remain as residents at the rescue due to age or health, and the other horses will move on to be well loved and useful members of the equine community.”

CVHR will continue to work with GFAS to assess what steps will be needed to meet Accreditation requirements. Central Virginia Horse rescue 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](http://www.sanctuaryfederation.org).

### **About Central Virginia Horse Rescue**

Central Virginia Horse Rescue is dedicated to the compassionate care of equines. Our mission is to save, protect and rehabilitate equines in need. We rescue unwanted, abused, neglected or abandoned equines, provide them with care and rehabilitation, and find them a compatible, loving home. CVHR's many programs include a gelding fund, a youth outreach program, public education programs and a hay bank. Our rescue serves south central and central Virginia.

### **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](http://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](http://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>.