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## Parrots-R-4Ever Avian Rescue and Sanctuary is first accredited sanctuary in Alabama

**‘Parrots-R-4Ever Avian Rescue and Sanctuary is proof that a modest-sized operation can be conducted professionally and in a sustainable manner’ says GFAS director**

The Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) is honored to announce that Parrots-R-4Ever Avian Rescue and Sanctuary headquartered in Huntsville, AL has achieved GFAS Accreditation.

"Parrots-R-4Ever Avian Rescue and Sanctuary has already been recognized as an outstanding organization, having been the recipient of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association's 2010 Bowie-Heath Humanitarian Award," states Patty Finch, Executive Director of GFAS.

Accreditation, however, signifies that Parrots-R-4Ever Avian Rescue and Sanctuary not only has excellent and humane parrot care, but that the organization has also undergone a rigorous audit of their governance, finances, guidelines, education and outreach, staffing, physical facilities, and security and safety.

Finch adds, "I was impressed that the facility had a separate air exchange for the quarantine area and one of the most elaborate air monitoring and security systems I've seen in a sanctuary. Also impressive is their contingency and succession plans, backed by solid legal agreements and financial plans. There were really very few things they needed to put in place to become accredited."

Parrots-R-4Ever Avian Rescue and Sanctuary became a 501(c)3 in 2004. Besides the Huntsville facility, there is a second facility in Jasper, AL for smaller birds such as parakeets. This is a challenging time for avian rescues in the US, and Parrots-R-4Ever is seeing the same problems that are repeated across the country: more parrots needing rescue than can be accommodated, adoptions at a stand-still, and the economy also means donations are harder to come by.

"Accreditation has been a long-term goal at Parrots-R-4Ever and we are thrilled and honored to be accredited by GFAS. We are confident that our steadfast adherence to GFAS standards, and the opportunity to participate, learn, grow and improve in a global alliance of animal welfare organizations, can only lead to a brighter future for PARS and the birds in our care." said Dave Spurlin, founder and Executive Director of Parrots-R-4Ever.

Finch states “If you are looking for a nonprofit to donate to at this time of giving, this is a sanctuary that is greatly needed and doing wonderful work. In terms of sheer numbers, parrots continue to be the largest captive wildlife problem in the US. These are long-lived, highly intelligent beings with rich emotional lives. Please support Parrot-R-4Ever Avian Rescue and Sanctuary!”

#### **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 worldwide. 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, National Anti-Vivisection Society, and International Fund for Animal Welfare.

[www.sanctuaryfederation.org](http://www.sanctuaryfederation.org).

#### **About Parrots-R-4Ever Avian Rescue and Sanctuary**

Parrots-R-4Ever Avian Rescue of North Alabama was established in Huntsville, Alabama as an informal one-person community service in 2002. In response to the demand for its services, PARS reorganized as a non-profit corporation in 2004 with a new name, Parrots-R-4Ever Avian Rescue and Sanctuary, Inc. and achieved recognition by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c) 3 public charity in the same year. PARS has since expanded to offer rescue shelter, adoption, conservation support, and public education services and opened its first satellite location in Jasper, AL in 2008. Parrots-R-4Ever currently provides shelter and daily care for 80-100 birds and future plans to increase their network of foster homes and opening of additional satellite locations are now under way. PARS is a Participating Member of the Avian Welfare Coalition and a member of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA).