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White Bird Appaloosa Horse Rescue in Virginia is Verified by Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries

January 25, 2012 (Burkeville, VA) – The Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), the only globally recognized organization providing standards for identifying legitimate animal sanctuaries, awarded Verified status to White Bird Appaloosa Horse Rescue on December 15, 2011.

Verification means that White Bird Appaloosa Horse Rescue 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.

"Wild Bird Appaloosa Horse Rescue is truly committed to helping Appaloosa horses with special medical needs," said Jeannine Alexander, GFAS Deputy Director-Equine. Jorg Huckabee-Mayfield shared her thoughts about their accomplishment, saying, "White Bird Appaloosa Horse Rescue is honored to receive this recognition of our efforts by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries. As an urgent need rescue, we accept only at-risk horses that have no other options at the time they are surrendered. These animals are often in serious need of medical attention and rehabilitation, and it "takes a village" to help them. We are grateful to the many volunteers and donors over the years that have helped to make this possible and we appreciate the validation that GFAS Verification and generous support brings to their efforts."

"We are very happy to see that White Bird Appaloosa Horse Rescue is already moving forward to meet Accreditation requirements, which has an expanded set of criteria", said Alexander. White Bird Appaloosa 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.

About White Bird Appaloosa Horse Rescue.

The White Bird Appaloosa Horse Rescue is a non-profit corporation located in Nottoway County, Virginia and has been an IRS recognized 501(c)3 non-profit since 2003. The Rescue is registered with the Virginia State Corporation Commission and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Since 2002, the White Bird Appaloosa Horse Rescue has rescued, rehabilitated and re-homed at-risk Appaloosas and other horses in urgent need. White Bird specializes in Appaloosas, but will not turn away horses of other breeds if the situation is urgent and the rescue has the resources to help them. The Rescue's goal is to find them permanent, loving homes. However: if adoptive homes cannot be found, horses are provided permanent sanctuary so that they can live out the remainder of their lives in safety and dignity.

Primarily serving as a community resource, the Rescue has taken in horses from as far away as Colorado and Montana. In addition to its service to equines, the rescue believes that prevention is the best medicine and strives to educate horse owners regarding horse care. The facility serves as an emergency hay bank and as a point of coordination between Appaloosa owners who must surrender their horses and those seeking them. Horses unable to be accepted into the Rescue are advertised through the Rescue's on-line "Clearinghouse" and many have found homes through this avenue.

White Bird is run by a Board of Directors and operated by volunteers who generously donate their time and talents. For more information visit: www.whitebirdapps.com.

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.aspc.org. To become a fan of the ASPCA on Facebook, go to <http://www.facebook.com/aspc>. To follow the ASPCA on Twitter, go to <http://www.twitter.com/aspc>.