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February 1, 2012

Strawberry Mountain Mustangs in Oregon is Verified by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries

February 1, 2012 (Roseburg, OR) – The Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), the only globally recognized organization providing standards for identifying legitimate animal sanctuaries, awarded Verified status to Strawberry Mountain Mustangs, December 15, 2011.

Verification means that Strawberry Mountain Mustangs 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.

"In addition to providing excellent equine care and rehabilitation to the equines in their care, Strawberry Mountain Mustangs worked with other animal welfare organizations and government agencies to pass a law making it a crime to abandon an equine in Oregon and they are currently working toward an aggravated neglect statute which would address multiple animal cases, hoarding, and repeat offenders," said Jeannine Alexander, GFAS Deputy Director-Equine. "SMM should be commended for this proactive work to help reduce the number of equines that are abandoned by their owners and who may suffer starvation, abuse and predation before they can be rescued," she continued.

Darla Clark, Executive Director of Strawberry Mountain Mustangs, responded to the news that SMM had been Verified by saying, "Strawberry Mountain is honored to be acknowledged by GFAS for our standard of care, commitment and level of integrity with our animals and within the equine community. We are delighted to begin our next leg of the journey with GFAS and the other exemplary equine rescues we now find ourselves in company with. GFAS is providing much needed guidance in the equine rescue community and every reputable organization should pursue the goals set forth by this wonderful organization. "

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 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 often hidden exploitation of animals for human entertainment and financial profit. The GFAS Board of Directors guides the organization's work in a collaborative manner. They represent top leadership from Born Free USA, The Humane Society of the United States, International Fund for Animal Welfare, American Anti-Vivisection Society, and National Anti-Vivisection Society.

www.sanctuaryfederation.org.

About Strawberry Mountain Mustangs

Strawberry Mountain Mustangs is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of all breeds of equine. SMM was founded in 2005 after rescuing dozens of wild horses from the Sheldon National Antelope Refuge in Nevada. These incredible animals were slipping through a government loophole and being sent to slaughter by the semi load. A passion was born and still burns brightly today. Throughout the last several years, SMM has been instrumental in developing owner assistance programs, founding the Oregon Hay Bank, sponsoring equine health fairs, educational opportunities for law enforcement, and we were active in the successful passage of a law that made equine abandonment a crime in our state. We continue to work with wonderful organizations such as the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) and the Oregon Animal Control Council (OACC) to pass the first Aggravated Neglect statute, making repeat offenders and crimes of neglect in the presence of a child a felony offense. Our successful rehabilitation program is unsurpassed and we are supported by our local veterinarians, law enforcement and district attorney's office. Together, we are working to end equine abuse and neglect within our community. Visit us at www.strawberrymountainmustangs.com or call 541-784-5522.

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>.