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## SquirrelWood Equine Sanctuary in Montgomery, NY. is Verified by Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries

May 22, 2012 (Montgomery, NY) – The Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), the only globally recognized organization providing standards for identifying legitimate animal sanctuaries, awarded Verified status to SquirrelWood Equine Sanctuary as of August 24, 2011.

Verification means that the SquirrelWood Equine Sanctuary 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 care to the horses that come to their rescue, SquirrelWood Equine Sanctuary meets the specialized needs of polo horses that need rescue and placement or sanctuary," said Jeannine Alexander, Deputy Director –Equine, GFAS." We are excited to add SquirrelWood to GFAS as a resource for at risk polo horses and to be confident in the quality of this organization, she continued."

"SquirrelWood Equine Sanctuary is proud to be recognized by GFAS and we are pleased to join the distinguished group of sanctuaries recognized by GFAS. We look forward to pursuing Accreditation and will continually strive to enhance the care and operations at our rescue," said Beth Hyman, Executive Director at SquirrelWood Equine Sanctuary.

SquirrelWood Equine Sanctuary was awarded a compliance grant by GFAS to help make recommended improvements to meet 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 SquirrelWood Equine Sanctuary**

SquirrelWood Equine Sanctuary provides a second chance to horses at risk of shipment to slaughter, abuse or neglect. Through exceptional care, responsible horsemanship, and training we provide these horses with a chance of a new home. Those that are unable to be adopted, due to behavioral issues, or physical problems are provided sanctuary for the remainder of their natural lives. It is our goal to continue setting high standards of care, and to provide each of our charges with the best possible life. For additional information about SquirrelWood Equine Sanctuary, please visit [www.squirrelwoodequinesanctuaryinc.org](http://www.squirrelwoodequinesanctuaryinc.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](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>.