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Founder of Rescate Animal in Costa Rica Recipient of Global Award for Sanctuary Excellence

Dennis Janik of GFAS-accredited Rescate Animal is the ninth recipient of the Carole Noon Award for Sanctuary Excellence given annually by Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries.

Washington DC – The 2017 Carole Noon Award for Sanctuary Excellence recipient was announced by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS). This year Dennis Janik of GFAS-accredited Rescate Animal, an animal rescue center in Costa Rica, was singled out for his innovation and leadership in supporting the welfare of native wildlife as a caregiver, conservationist and advocate.



The Carole Noon Award for Sanctuary Excellence is given annually to a sanctuary or individual who embodies and puts into practice the GFAS philosophy of vision, dedication and excellence in animal care. It memorializes Carole Noon, founder of Save the Chimps in Fort Pierce, Florida, the world's largest chimpanzee sanctuary.

“Dennis’ story is truly inspiring. A native of Canada, he became aware of the environmental concerns in Costa Rica and made the decision to take action,” says Kellie Heckman, GFAS executive director. “He now operates what is considered the most extensive, effective and secure animal rescue center in all of Costa Rica and is personally relied on heavily for his expertise by the local government and animal welfare NGOs.”



Heckman also applauded Costa Rican President Luis Guillermo Solís for his recent signing of the new regulations of the Wildlife Conservation Law that will ensure that all native wildlife will receive appropriate care in rescue centers such as Rescate Animal <http://presidencia.go.cr/comunicados/2017/08/nuevo-reglamento-de-la-ley-de-conservacion>.

In 1995, Dennis Janik founded Rescate Animal, a wildlife rehabilitation facility located on 84 acres of natural forest in the province of Alajuela, Costa Rica with a mission to protect and restore the country's biodiversity through wildlife rehabilitation and endangered species breeding and reintroduction. The facility has saved the lives of tens of thousands of injured, orphaned and confiscated native birds and mammals.

“Dennis has been incredibly innovative when it comes to providing the best possible care for injured and orphaned wildlife,” remarks Jeanne Marie Pittman, GFAS Director of Accreditation - North, Central and South America. “He has created numerous rearing and soft-release strategies that have been highly successful in reversing the local extinction of many globally and locally threatened species.”

Janik shared his thoughts about the achievement, saying, "I am very honored to receive such a meaning full award. I admire GFAS for its work to establish an international standard for animal sanctuaries worldwide."

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, rescues, and rehabilitation centers worldwide. 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. While the board includes those in top leadership at The Humane Society of the United States, International Fund for Animal Welfare, the ASPCA, and American Anti-Vivisection Society, all board members serve as individuals dedicated to animal sanctuaries. www.sanctuaryfederation.org.

About Rescate Animal:

Rescate Animal is a wildlife rehabilitation facility managed by the non-profit organization ZooAve which was founded in 1990 and is located on 36 acres of natural forest in the province of Alajuela, Costa Rica. Rescate Animal's mission is to protect and restore the country's biodiversity through wildlife rehabilitation and endangered species breeding and reintroduction. Rescate Animal has been rescuing, rehabilitating, breeding and releasing native wildlife in Costa Rica for over 25 years.